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### North Carolina's Sean May

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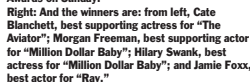
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平成22年4月9日 第三種郵便物認可  
発行所 日本郵政株式会社 東京16-0022

1月4日(土) 12月26日(木) 19  
東京駅前区土木7丁目3番17号

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**'Million Dollar Baby' wins best picture, director, actress and supporting actor awards** **Pages 8-9**

# STARS AND STRIPES

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Scene on Sunday

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# News Tracker ... What's new with old news

## States

**Missing Fla. girl:** Searchers began their fifth day of combing the roads and woods surrounding a missing 9-year-old girl's home in Homosassa, Fla., on Monday, hitting new areas while going back over spots that were already inspected.

The search for Jessica Marie Lunsford, who disappeared from her bedroom last week, has been frustrated by rainy weather and the lack of hard evidence. But the weather had cleared Monday, giving officials some hope, although the search could be scaled back Tuesday if no evidence is found.

**Trial of former WorldCom chief:** Former WorldCom Inc. chief Bernard Ebbers testified in New York on Monday, telling jurors he was unschooled in accounting and finance as he began defending himself against charges he orchestrated the \$11 billion fraud that capped the company he built.

Ebbers said his former finance chief, Scott Sullivan, "had an uncanny knowledge of the technical details of accounting." Defense lawyers called Ebbers, 63, to testify as his trial on charges of fraud, conspiracy and making false regulatory filings opened its sixth week in Manhattan federal court.

## Military

**Army deserter Jenkins:** A U.S. Army deserter who spent nearly 40 years in captivity in North Korea before resettling in Japan hopes to return to the United States — but only for a visit.

Charles Robert Jenkins, 65, plans to travel to Tokyo on Wednesday to apply for a U.S. passport, officials in the Japanese village of Mano said Monday. Jenkins has said he would like to visit his home in North Carolina with his wife, Hitomi Soga, and their two North Korean daughters.

## World

**Rwanda genocide:** A former commander of the military academy in Rwanda appeared Monday at a U.N. tribunal in Tanzania to face genocide charges related to the 1994 slaughter of at least half a million minority Tutsis and politically moderate Hutus.

Lt. Col. Tharcisse Muvunyi was charged with five counts of genocide and crimes against humanity.

**Gaza Strip pullout:** Israel may leave buildings in Jewish settlements intact after a Gaza Strip withdrawal instead of demolishing them as initially planned, senior officials said Monday.



**British activists:** Three members of a group that campaigns for better child custody rights for divorced fathers stand on a ledge at the Foreign Office in central London on Monday. The campaigners from Fathers 4 Justice, dressed as Captain America, Robin and Batman, perched some 50 feet above the junction of Whitehall, where many government offices are located, and Downing Street, home of Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair. The group has previously held protests at the London Eye Ferris wheel and Buckingham Palace with protesters dressed as Spider-Man, Santa Claus and Batman and Robin.

Demolition would force Israeli troops to spend more time in Gaza, exposing them to possible attack by Palestinian militants for a longer period and driving up the price of withdrawal, said Giora Eliland, head of Israel's National Security Council.

**Asian bird flu:** A 14-year-old girl in Vietnam has become the third person in a week to contract deadly bird flu in the same northern province, health officials said Monday, prompting concerns over a larger outbreak.

The bird flu has killed 46 people in Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia since it surfaced in mass outbreaks on Asian poultry farms in 2003, then spread last year among poultry across a wide swath of the region.

Since bird flu re-emerged in Vietnam nine weeks ago, 14 people have died.

**Clinton's visit to Taiwan:** Former President Clinton wrapped up a whirlwind trip to Taiwan on Monday, after signing autographs for his memoir and meeting the Taiwanese leader and other politicians.

At a signing of his memoir, "My Life," in a Taipei bookstore, Clinton recalled his first

visit to Taiwan in 1979 as Arkansas governor. "I was 33 then and had no gray hair."

**Crude oil prices:** Crude prices edged up Monday, extending their recent rise above \$51 a barrel amid concerns about continuing cold weather in the U.S. Northeast and the possibility that OPEC will cut production in March.

Qatar's Oil Minister Abdullah bin Hamad said Sunday that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries might "cut supply to stop inventories from building" on March 16 when OPEC members gather in Iran.

**Tsunami damage:** Britain's Prince Charles told tsunami survivors in Sri Lanka on Monday he was saddened by their loss as the United Nations said its five-year plan for Asia's reconstruction from the disaster was nearing completion.

Charles, who arrived by helicopter in the Batticaloa region, said he was "terribly upset" by the devastation from the tsunami that killed more than 31,000 people in the former British colony and left another 1 million homeless.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

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STAR

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# AAFS raises March gas prices 10 cents

Stars and Stripes

CAMP POSTER, Okinawa — The Pacific Region Army and Air Force Exchange Service announced Monday that gas prices were to increase in Japan, Okinawa, South Korea and Guam effective March 1.

In Japan and Okinawa, customers will see a hike of 10 cents, as the price for a gallon of mid-grade fuel will rise from \$1.966 to \$2.061.

Diesel prices there will go up from \$2.02 to \$2.054.

Drivers in South Korea will see unleaded fuel prices rise from \$1.856 to \$1.955 per gallon.

## Increase effective across Pacific

Premium unleaded will increase from \$2.057 to \$2.147 and diesel fuel will go from \$2.007 to \$2.045.

Guam drivers will see pump prices go from \$1.869 to \$1.969 for unleaded fuel; premium will jump from \$2.079 to \$2.169.

AAFS determined the new prices by using the U.S. Department of Energy average prices from each of the last four weeks.

The prices were added together, divided by four, then each area's incremental dispensing costs were added in.

AAFS said the dispensing cost for Guam is \$0.10375; in South Korea the cost is \$0.09104; and in Japan and Okinawa, the cost is \$0.05828.

In September AAFFS announced the gas-pricing policy — which let prices be adjusted monthly rather than annually to match the DOE average — for Japan and Okinawa.

Guam and South Korea already were on a monthly pricing schedule.

The change in policy Oct. 1 in mainland

Japan and Okinawa standardized how AAFFS sets gasoline prices in its overseas markets.

Before the Japan policy was implemented, only AAFFS's gas prices in Okinawa, Japan, Turkey and Azores were set for the entire year.

All overseas AAFFS stations now change prices monthly based on the prior month's Department of Energy average, to provide consistency in the way the policy is applied, AAFFS officials have said.

AAFFS buys gas for Okinawa and Japan on an annual contract that locked in a wholesale price of \$1.38 on Oct. 1.

For Guam and South Korea, AAFFS' wholesale cost fluctuates month to month.

# Yokota gets kudos for Combined Federal Campaign

By T.D. FLACK

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The Yokota community patrolled itself of the back Monday for "leading the Pacific" during the 2004 Combined Federal Campaign.

Military and civilian leaders gathered in the Enlisted Club ballroom Monday afternoon to recognize the personnel and units that helped Yokota raise more than \$375,000 with close to 60 percent participation — almost double the normal 30 percent installation average.

The 2004 program saw a more than \$50,000 increase in donations and a 30 percent jump in the participation rate from 2003, even with 400 fewer people working at Yokota this year, according to a base fact sheet.

Melissa Kidder, director of

## A few facts about 2004 base donations

Number of potential contributors: 3,739  
Number of donors: 2,166  
Total contributions: \$375,492  
Participation: 57.93 percent  
Average gift: \$173.36

### UNIT AWARDS:

Bronze Award, \$60 average donation or at least 40 percent participation: 7 awards  
Silver Award, \$90 average donation or at least 50 percent participation: 9 awards

Gold Award, \$120 average donation or at least 60 percent participation rate: 16 awards  
Platinum Award, \$200 average donation or at least 85 percent participation: 7 awards

### STANDOUTS:

459th Airlift Squadron, \$527 average donation  
Army and Air Force Exchange Service, 100 percent participation

Source: 374th Public Affairs Office

CFC-Overseas, who traveled from Washington, D.C., for the ceremony, said Yokota's success amazed her.

"I've been doing this for eight years and I don't think I've ever seen this many unit awards," Kidder told the audience.

She said even though service-

members work in a profession in which they could have to put their lives on the line, they still open their wallets for the annual CFC drive.

First Lt. Kenneth Raszinski, who volunteered to spearhead Yokota's efforts as the community area project officer, received

a plaque from Kidder and an Air Force Achievement Medal from 374th Airlift Wing Commander Col. Mark Schlusser.

Kidder also presented Capt. Paul Talley, assistant project officer, with a plaque.

Schlusser said he never talked to Raszinski about a monetary

goal, focusing instead on participation.

Raszinski said he volunteered "just to help out... to be involved in the community." He said the key to Yokota's success was getting the word out.

"People just really saw the light," he said of the 2004 numbers.

Kidder said one of best things about her job is meeting people who've been touched by the CFC. She said she visited Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington a few weeks ago and met an inspiring young sergeant who had lost both his legs in Iraq.

When she mentioned her upcoming trip to the Pacific, the sergeant said to "thank them for us."

"On behalf of people you may never meet," she said, "thank you."

E-mail T.D. Flack at: flack@patriotpress.com

# Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society launches fund-raising drive

## Organizers hope to surpass \$500,000 mark

By JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL AIR FACILITY MISAWA, Japan — Annual fund-raisers for the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society are under way at Pacific installations, with organizers hoping to eclipse last year's mark of \$500,000.

The society gives out loans and grants to active-duty and retired servicemembers and their families in need, officials said.

Local commands select representatives to contact sailors and Marines about the donation drive and often hold special events such as raffles and car washes.

In mainland Japan, the fund drive began Monday and is to run to April 1.

On Okinawa, the campaign is

## How to help

For more information or to make a donation:

In mainland Japan, call Chief Petty Officer Jerry Walsh at DSN 243-7611.

On Okinawa, contact Lt. Cmdr. Tom DeLucia at delucia@ok10.med.navy.mil or e-mail: navymarinelief@hotmail.com

Those heading Command/Activity Fund drives can contact Kiera Bishop with the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society at 645-7808.

to swing into gear Wednesday and end May 13.

About 45 percent of sailors on mainland Japan contributed during last year's campaign, said Chief Petty Officer Ed Angeles, fund-drive coordinator at NAF Misawa.

Donations are accepted in the form of payroll deductions, checks or cash.

Last year's regional fund-raiser in South Korea, Singapore, Diego Garcia and mainland Japan brought in \$477,000, according to Kelley Finch, NMCRS Yokosuka office director.

The society gave out more than \$660,000.

"It's a worldwide pot," she said.

"Some regions bring in way more than they give out."

Finch said donations are funneled directly back into relief.

The only salary paid through contributions is for nurses who provide assistance and home visitation to families in need, she said.

Last year for the region, \$549,000 was paid in direct assistance, Finch said, for things such as emergency leave, car re-

pairs, stolen funds and verified pay problems.

The society would, for example, help a servicemember who re-enlists but a problem with paperwork holds up a paycheck and the member "has a family of three and rent and utilities to pay," she said.

The remaining \$110,000 last year was distributed to spouses for tuition assistance.

Those scholarships are paid by the interest on the society's reserve fund, Finch noted.

"Emergency leave is about 60 percent of our business because it's so expensive to fly home," she said.

If an immediate family member dies or is seriously ill, the society will provide an interest-free loan to help the servicemember and his or her family fly home.

In the case of a grandparent or grandchild, the society typically will help either the servicemember or spouse — whoever is the most closely related — get home, Finch said.

Last year, the society also gave out 240 layettes to servicemembers and their families in the region, with \$100 of infant items including coordinated baby shirts, a hooded towel and other infant items.

On Okinawa last year, more than \$567,000 was given out: 454 loans and grants totaling \$302,744 and \$64,506 in tuition assistance to spouses.

A majority of the loans and grants provided financial relief for servicemembers and their families during emergencies.

Fred Zimmerman contributed to this report.

E-mail Jennifer H. Svan at: svan@patriotpress.com

## Correction

The parent organization of MilitaryPETS Foster Project, NetPETS.org, was started in 1995. An article in Saturday's editions incorrectly reported the date.

# Car bomb kills 115 outside clinic in Iraq

By Ali Al-Fatlawi  
The Associated Press

HILLAH, Iraq — A suicide car bomber blew himself up next to dozens of police and national guard recruits Monday as they lined up outside a medical clinic south of Baghdad, killing at least 115 people and wounding 132 — the single deadliest attack since the fall of Saddam Hussein.

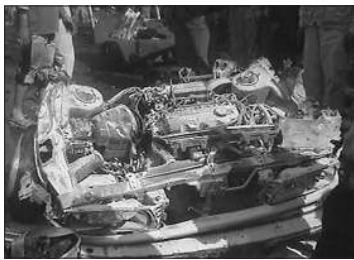
Torn limbs, feet and other body parts littered the street outside the medical clinic in Hillah, about 60 miles south of Baghdad.

Maj. Gen. Osman Ali, an Iraqi National Guard commander in Hillah, put the toll at 115 dead and 132 wounded. A health official in Babil province said the death toll could rise.

"The martyrs may more because there a number of body parts" to be counted, Mahmoud Abdul Reda said at the hospital. Morgue workers unloaded plastic body bags from pickup trucks as weeping relatives looked on.

Babil province police headquarters said in an announcement that "several people" were arrested in connection with the blast. It did not elaborate.

The blast came a day after Iraq announced the capture of a key in-



People gather near a wrecked car at the scene of a suicide car bombing in Hillah, Iraq, on Monday. A suicide car bomber detonated explosives amid a crowd of people about 60 miles south of Baghdad on Monday, killing at least 115 people, police and witnesses said.

surgent leader in neighboring Syria. It was the deadliest single attack since the insurgency began nearly two years ago.

The second deadliest attack took place on Aug. 29, 2003, when a car bomb exploded outside a mosque in Najaf, killing more

than 85 people, including Shiite leader Ayatollah Mohammed Baqir al-Hakim.

The attack in Hillah, with a majority Shiite population, came as the clergy-backed United Iraqi Alliance sought the support of other parties to form Iraq's first-ever

## U.S.: Intel says al-Qaida still looking to attack outside Iraq

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — New intelligence indicates al-Qaida is moving forward on terror operations outside of Iraq, officials said Monday, but the U.S. was not planning on raising its national alert level.

The Homeland Security Department described the intelligence, intercepted over the past several weeks, as "credible but not specific."

However, it "reiterates the desire by al-Qaida and its associ-

ates to target the homeland," said Homeland Security spokesman Brian Roehrkasse.

A U.S. counterterrorism official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the "very vague" information alluded to moving forward on planning for operations outside of Iraq. It did not refer to any time, place or location.

The Homeland Security Department issued a classified bulletin to officials over the week-end about the intelligence, Roehrkasse said.

democratically elected government.

Insurgents have stepped up attacks against predominantly Shiite targets in recent weeks. A series of suicide bombings and other attacks left nearly 100 people dead over the two-day Ashura commemoration that began Feb. 18.

Following a funeral procession in Hillah, many of the dead will be taken to Najaf for burial.

Hillah is located just below the so-called "triangle of death," the mixed Sunni-Shiite region south of the capital that has earned the nickname owing to the frequency of insurgent bombing.

The 930 a.m. blast outside the medical clinic was so powerful it nearly vaporized the suicide bomber's car, leaving only its engine partially intact.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Sunday, at least 1,495 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,130 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department.

The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is 15 higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated on 10 a.m. EST Friday.

Since May 1, 2003, 1,357 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,021 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ Two soldiers were killed Sunday in a roadside ambush southwest of Baghdad.

■ A Marine was killed in action Saturday in Babil province, Iraq.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Spc. Jason L. Mosley, 24, Blacksville, S.C., and Army Spc. Colby M. Farman, 22, Weston, Mo., killed Friday when an explosive detonated near their patrol in Taji, Iraq; assigned to the 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, Fort Riley, Kan.

■ Army Spc. Adam N. Brewer, 22, Dewey, Okla., killed Friday when an explosive detonated near his patrol in Taji, Iraq; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, Fort Hood, Texas.

## Report: Air Force wasted \$1M on faulty detectors

The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — A Defense Department report says the Air Force wasted \$1 million on unreliable hand-held chemical agent detectors that could have been put at risk any airman who depended on the equipment, a local newspaper reported Sunday.

Air Force officials may have violated federal laws and military rules when they bought 100 commercial versions of the detectors and supplied them to commanders in the Middle East while knowing that the manufacturer's tests showed the detectors did not work well in hot areas or under battle conditions, the Deseret Morning News reported.

Moreover, officials did not wait for other necessary tests, including some at Utah's

Dugway Proving Ground, according to a Defense Department Inspector General report the newspaper obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request.

The Pentagon has ordered the Air Force to stop using the 100 detectors that were purchased and to send them to military testers who are working to improve them.

The documents say the military began developing a hand-held chemical arms detector after the first Iraq war, and British Aerospace Systems was chosen as the contractor for a "joint chemical agent detector" or JCAD. After the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, that company began marketing a commercial version called the JCAD ChemSentry.

The inspector general report says Air

Force Central Command overseeing the Middle East erroneously filed the commercial unit had advantages over detectors it was already using.

At the command's urging, the military's JCAD Program Office bought 100 of the commercial detectors. The report says that agency knew the detectors did not meet its requirements, based on the manufacturer's own testing, but thought they worked well enough to be of use.

When a request for more units was submitted, the Pentagon said it would allow the purchase only if tests proved the JCAD was better than existing detectors.

The tests found that, among many problems, the detectors did not perform well enough in identifying when chemical agents were present, the report says.

## Yokota Baptist Church

Pastor Warren Webster

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## Christian Ministries Far East

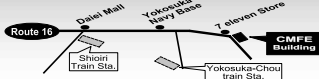
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Wednesday Christian Studies Class - 6:30pm  
Friday Prayer & Evangelistic Service - 6:30pm

Directions: After passing 7-Eleven, on your left, CMFE is located on the next block (on the corner).





# Army investigating fatal Apache crash

BY SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

**TWIN BRIDGES, South Korea** — The wreckage of a U.S. Army Apache attack helicopter remained strewn Monday across a desolate hillside at Twin Bridges Training Area near the Demilitarized Zone, as military officials continued investigating the weekend crash.

The Apache, part of the Camp Page-based 1st Battalion, 2nd Aviation Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, is upside down at the top of a large gully, a bent rotor blade protruding into space while its tail section and rear rotor lie a short distance away, at the gully bottom.

The crash killed the pilot and co-pilot. One survived the initial impact but died later in the hospital, officials said. The Army will release their names after next of kin have been notified, said Maj. Michael Lawhorn, 2nd Infantry Division spokesman.

The downed helicopter was one of several 1-2 Apaches operating at Twin Bridges as part of the Warrior Field Training Exercise, he said. They were supporting 2nd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment soldiers in combined arms, force-on-force training at the range. After the accident, the helicopters were grounded but infantry

Wreckage strewn across Twin Bridges hillside near DMZ



SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

The wreck of a 1st Battalion, 2nd Aviation Regiment Apache attack helicopter perches precariously on a South Korean hillside after going down Saturday at Twin Bridges Training Area.

try soldiers continued the training, he said.

Several 2-9 soldiers saw the crash but are not discussing it publicly until they've talked with accident investigators, Lawhorn said.

Monday, more than 40 soldiers from the 2nd ID's 4th Battalion, 7th Armored Regiment, and from

Task Force 1st Battalion, 72nd Armored Regiment, guarded the crash site, where an area the size of two football fields was taped off. Nearby, training involving Bradley Fighting Vehicles and Humvees continued.

Capt. George Steffans, 36, of San Diego, of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop 4-7, was in

charge of crash site security. Last week, he and the other site guards had acted as the opposition force during the training involving the 1-2 helicopters, he said.

"We had guys who saw the helicopter go down," said Steffans. "There was concern. The guys were concerned about the safety

of the soldiers."

After the injured victim was evacuated, 4-7 and 1-72 soldiers cordoned off the wreckage, he said.

"We have to make sure the site isn't tampered with so the investigators can find out what went wrong. We are not sure what is there (at the crash site). It takes avionics expertise and aviation expertise to come and identify what all this equipment is," said Steffans. "There are a lot of complex systems. They just don't want anybody to mess with it so they can find out what happened and make sure it doesn't happen again."

One of the 1-72 site guards, Staff Sgt. Jared Heister, 26, of Mountain, N.M., said he and his men set up observation posts around the crash site and were patrolling the surrounding area.

"It is rather somber being out here now that two soldiers lost their lives," he said, staring up at the snowy hillside through a mass of twisted, leafless branches at the wreck of the Apache.

South Korean police officer Lee Nyung-gon of Jukseung Police Station on Monday said no private property was damaged and no South Koreans were injured in the crash, which happened inside the training area.

Hwang Hae-rym contributed to this report.

E-mail Seth Robson at: robson@starsandstripes.osd.mil

CAMP ZAMA COMMUNITY CLUB

MWR

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- Ski Lift Tickets
- Beginner or Advance Scuba Instruction
- Climbing Wall Tickets
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\*The CZCC will be offering food demonstrations & various foods representing your travel destinations.



# U.S. report lists human rights violators

By BARRY SCHWEID

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Man's inhumanity to man was documented anew Monday by the State Department as it surveyed human rights abuses last year in scores of countries and found systematic tortures in Syria, severe abuses in China and the killing of civilians by government-backed militia in Sudan's troubled Darfur province.

Egypt, a close ally of the United States in the Middle East, was censured for the use of torture by security forces torturing prisoners and for mass arrests. Iran's "poor human rights record worsened," the State Department report said. Summary executions, political killings, disappearances, amputations and flogging were among the cited abuses in Iran.

North Korea, which President Bush has denounced as part of an "axis of evil," is one of the most repressive and brutal regimes, the report said. An estimate

## Syria, China, Sudan, Egypt, Iran, N. Korea among countries noted as trouble spots with poor records

of 150,000 to 200,000 people are believed to be in detention camps in remote areas, and defectors report many have died from torture, starvation and disease.

Russia was credited with generally respecting the human rights of its citizens. But the Federal Security Service operated with little oversight, security forces committed "numerous and serious human rights abuses," President Vladimir Putin strengthened his power over regional governors and restrictions were imposed on the media, the report said.

Both sides in the dispute over Chechnya showed little respect for basic human rights and there were reports of killings, it said.

"By anybody's account, Russia has moved backward in the past year," Michael Kozak, assistant secretary for human rights, told reporters.

Last week, at a summit meeting in Slovakia, Putin, responding to "loud and clear" criticism from Bush, said Russia was committed to democracy.

Syria's human rights record is poor, the report said. Syrians do not have a right to change their government and "continuing serious abuses included the use of torture in detention, which at times resulted in death," unfair trials and arbitrary arrests.

But there were several bright spots. Terrorism fell off in post-Taliban Afghanistan, respect for human rights in Ukraine rose with the staging of free elections, and what the report said were prospects for peace in Iraq "help create momentum for the improvement of human rights practices."

Egyptian President Hosni

Mubarak's promise last weekend to hold multi-candidate elections came too late to be reflected in the report, which accused government-controlled security forces of numerous, serious human rights abuses.

Egyptians did not have the meaningful ability to change their government, the report said, noting Mubarak was serving a fourth six-year term as a result of national referenda in which he was not opposed.

China, described as an authoritarian state, denies its citizens freedom to oppose the Chinese Communist Party's political system, the report said. The government used war on terror as a pretext for cracking down on peaceful Uighur separatists and does not permit outsiders to monitor the human rights situation in the country, the report to Congress added.

## Report: Japan eyeing manned base on moon

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan plans to start building a manned base on the moon and a space shuttle within the next 20 years, a newspaper report said Monday.

Japan's space agency, JAXA, hopes to develop a robot to conduct probes on the moon by 2015, then begin constructing a solar-powered manned research base on the moon and designing a reusable manned space vessel, the newspaper said. Japan's space shuttle by 2025, the Mainichi Shimbun said. The space agency's budget could be boosted six-fold to \$57 billion to finance those plans, the Mainichi said.

The plans also include using satellites to send evacuation routes, locators on people's whereabouts and alerts to cell phones in the event of major emergencies like a tsunami.

On Saturday, Japan took a big step toward re-establishing the credibility of its space program, with the successful launch of an H-2A rocket that placed a communications satellite into orbit.

## Lebanon's pro-Syrian leaders resign

By BASSEM MROUE

The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — As thousands of flag-waving demonstrators cheered outside, Lebanese Prime Minister Omar Karami announced the resignation of his pro-Syrian government Monday, two weeks after the assassination of his predecessor triggered wide street protests and calls for Syria to withdraw thousands of troops.

"I am keen that the government will not be a hurdle in the way of those who want the good for this country. I declare the resignation of the government that I had the honor to head. May God preserve Lebanon," Karami said.

"Today the government fell. Tomorrow, it's the one huddled in Beirut," opposition leader Elias Aoun said, referring to the Syrian intelligence chief based in the eastern Lebanese town of Anjar. He said the opposition will continue its actions until all demands are met.

The White House praised the resignation, saying it opened the door for new elections "free of all foreign interference."

The resignation was the most dramatic moment yet in the series of protests and political maneuvers that have shaken Lebanon and its Syrian-backed government since the Feb. 14 assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

Many in Lebanon blame Syria for being behind Hariri's slaying and had pressed hard since his death for the resignation of the pro-Syrian Lebanese government.

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# Pope recovering

## Vatican: Pontiff has begun therapy

The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II has begun speech and respiratory therapy following last week's surgery to ease his latest breathing crisis, the Vatican said Monday, without indicating when he might be able to speak in public or leave the hospital.

Throat specialists, including one who attended the pope's operation last Thursday to cut a breathing hole into his windpipe, said patients like John Paul should be able to speak normally again, although not as loudly.

But even as the Vatican's medical bulletin insisted the pontiff's recovery was proceeding uneventfully on his fifth day at Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic hospital, Parkinson's specialists said the debilitating neurological disease may well figure in more breathing crises for the 84-year-old pontiff.

"We are in a stage where it's ev-

ident that the patient is fragile because of progression of a disease with a 15, 20-year history," said Giovanni Fabbrini, a neurologist at Rome's Umberto I Polyclinic and a member of Sapienza's University neurological sciences department.

"He's over the average age of 78" and he's "vulnerable" to more such respiratory problems, said Dr. Fabbrini, stressing that he hasn't examined John Paul.

John Paul was rushed to Gemelli on Feb. 24 with breathing problems that the Vatican said were caused by a narrowing of the larynx.

"The Holy Father's postoperative phase is taking place without complications" and his general condition good, the Vatican communique said. "The Holy Father is eating regularly, spends some hours in an armchair and has begun exercises to rehabilitate breathing and phonation."



Elena Espinosa, Spain's minister for agriculture, prepares to take her seat prior to a meeting of EU agriculture ministers in Brussels on Monday. EU nations agreed to send small fishing boats to tsunami-affected areas to help relaunch the fishing industry.

AP

## EU sending fishing boats to rebuild tsunami-hit nations' major industry

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — European Union nations on Monday agreed to send small fishing boats taken out of commission in the 25 member nations to tsunami-hit areas of Asia to help relaunch the fishing industry there.

EU fisheries ministers unanimously decided to send vessels between five and 20 years old and under 39 feet long which are being taken out of the EU fleet in an attempt to limit overfishing, said an EU official, who asked not to be identified.

The number of boats sent there

will depend on the demand of the nations in the area. More than 110,000 boats were destroyed or damaged.

Fishing communities were badly affected by the Dec. 26 South Asian tsunami, which killed more than 170,000 people in 11 nations, with 100,000 more still missing.

The damage to fisheries in tsunami-hit countries has endangered the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of families. The fishing industry was second only to tourism as the economic sector most affected by the disaster.

The WWF conservation group, however, has raised objections, ar-

guing bringing European fishing methods to Asia could drastically affect the ecological balance there and lead to overfishing. In the tsunami-hit areas, the industry is mostly based on individual fishing, while in Europe, fishing is mostly done in crews.

Instead of sending vessels, the WWF argued for increased support for the local boat-building industry.

In addition to commissioning vessels, the EU also wants to send experts to the region to provide technical help to reconstruct the fishing industry and fish and crustacean farms.

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# 'Million Dollar Baby' cleans Oscar's clock

## 'Aviator' lands five awards, but Eastwood film nabs biggest prizes

BY DAVID GERMAIN  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Backstage at the Academy Awards, Clint Eastwood contemplated how deserving he was to come away with his second best picture and directing triumph, this time for the boxing tale "Million Dollar Baby."

"There's a lot of great movies that have won the Academy Award, and a lot of great movies that haven't," said Eastwood, whose film also earned Hilary Swank her second best actress Oscar and Morgan Freeman the supporting actor prize. Humbly, Eastwood added, "You just do the best you can."

Other acting awards Sunday night went to performers in real-life roles, Jamie Foxx as lead actor for his uncanny emulation of Ray Charles in "Ray" and Cate Blanchett for supporting actress as Katharine Hepburn, the love of Howard Hughes' life, in "The Aviator."

Eastwood's triumph meant fresh heartbreak for Martin Scorsese, whose Hughes epic "The Aviator" won the most awards with five but failed to bring him the directing Oscar that has eluded him throughout his distinguished career.

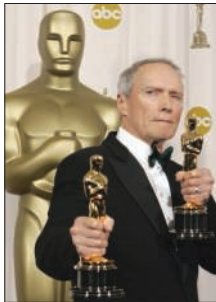
Scorsese, now a five-time loser, matched the record of Oscar fatality led by a handful of legendary filmmakers such as Alfred Hitchcock and Robert Altman, who also went 0-for-5 in the directing category.

Eastwood, who directed a segment of Scorsese's music-documentary TV series "The Blues," had kind words for his rival backstage.

"I was kind of a little disappointed when they started building a competition between Marty and me," Eastwood said. "I have the greatest respect for him and all the films he's done over the years."

Blanchett echoed Eastwood's praise. "Certainly, working with Martin Scorsese was an absolute minute-by-minute education without him ever being grandiose about it," Blanchett said.

It was the second straight year an Eastwood film won two of the four acting Oscars, Swank as a tenacious fighter who rises to champion status before her life takes a cruel twist, Freeman as a worldly wise ex-boxer.



Director Clint Eastwood poses Sunday with the Oscars he won for best director and best picture for his boxing movie "Million Dollar Baby" at the 77th Academy Awards.

Last year, Eastwood's dark morality play "Mystic River" earned the lead actor prize for Sean Penn and the supporting actor award for Tim Robbins.

Freeman, who costarred in Eastwood's 1992 film "Unforgiven," said he is the sort of director who gives actors the freedom to cut loose and perform their own way. The Western was Eastwood's first Oscar win for best picture and director.

"If he hires you, he hires you because he feels like you know what to do," Freeman said. "And he's very, very largely out of the way. He directs the picture, you do the acting. I love that, and I think that most of the people that he works with love that."

Swank once again beat out main rival Annette Bening, nominated for the theater farce "Beijing Jule," Bening had been the front-runner for "American Beauty" five years ago but lost to Swank.

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AP photos

From left, actors Morgan Freeman, Cate Blanchett, Hilary Swank and Jamie Foxx pose after winning Oscars Sunday at the 77th Academy Awards in Los Angeles. Freeman took home the supporting actor honor for his role in "Million Dollar Baby," Blanchett was honored as best supporting actress in "The Aviator," Swank won for best actress in "Million Dollar Baby" and Jamie Foxx received the best actor honor for his role in "Ray."



Left: Composer Andrew Lloyd Webber embraces singer Beyoncé Knowles after they performed the best original song nominee "Learn to Be Lonely" from "The Phantom of the Opera." Right: Actor Al Pacino walks off the stage with director Sidney Lumet after presenting Lumet with an honorary Oscar.

her first win, Swank had been in danger of becoming one of those actresses who fades from view after an Oscar success.

"The truth is, after 'Boys Don't Cry,' I realized how few and far between the great roles are," Swank said. "I am beyond thankful for finding 'Million Dollar Baby.'"

Critics say Scorsese's best work is decades behind him, noting that recent epics such as "The Aviator" and "Gangs of New York" do not measure up to earlier masterpieces such as "Mean Streets" and "Raging Bull."

On the other hand, Eastwood has entered a late-career zenith, delivering complex character studies two years in a row that rank toward the top of his long resume as actor and director.

A last-minute addition to the Oscar race, "Million Dollar Baby" did not even begin shooting until June and had been scheduled for release in 2005 until distributor Warner Bros. took a look at an early cut and scrambled to release it in December.

At 74, Eastwood became the oldest directing winner ever.

He said he had great respect for many young directors such as Alexander Payne, who shared the adapted screenplay Oscar for the wine-country ramble "Sideways," which also had a best picture nomination.

"There's a lot of young guys coming along, but I'd like to say to the various financiers, don't forget the senior guys. The senior guys and gals are there, willing to do their best work for you."

# A sharp awards broadcast with Rock as the host

BY FRAZIER MOORE  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — In the lingo of the moment, Chris Rock scored big on Sunday's Oscarcast with his charm offensive.

Rock did nothing to rile the FCC, as some had feared or hoped.

Nor, as some had feared or hoped, did he relegate the Oscars themselves to supporting-player status. What he did do was give "The 77th Annual Academy Awards" a needed pick-me-up, presiding over the broadcast with saucy finesse.

In its never-ending quest to shake off its accumulated cobwebs, the Oscarcast had taken an unusually bold step in hiring him. It seemed to acknowledge that, for many viewers, there was more suspense in seeing what the irrepressible comedian might say or do than in finding out who would claim this year's crop of trophies.

Maybe so. But the ABC show proved a satisfying balance of personality and ceremony. Thank goodness. This was a night apallingly devoid of juicy flare-ups, screwups, breakdowns or bombshells (unless you count poor Martin Scorsese missing out, yet again, as best director).

Rock's opening monologue wasn't a home run, but he warmed up quickly.

He heeded nearly every actor within earshot by observing, "There's only four real stars, and the rest are just popular people. Clint Eastwood is a star. Tobey Maguire's just a boy in tights."

He vowed not to slam the president, then marveled at George Bush's re-election despite certain missteps: "When Bush got into office there was a surplus of money. Now there's, like, a \$70 trillion deficit. Just imagine if YOU worked at the Gap, and you're closing out your register and YOU'RE \$70 trillion short!"

Later, a pre-taped remote found Rock visiting the nearby Magic Johnson movie house to talk to "ordinary people," and he had fun with the fact that many of these black cineastes had not seen, nor even heard of, the Oscar-nominated films.

In sum, the broadcast felt brisk, though not rushed. It felt modern and refreshingly free of chronic self-importance. (Could that really be?) It was a night when Prince was a presenter and the cellist Yo-Yo Ma performed.

A warm tribute to the late Johnny Carson treated viewers to clips from his many years in a role much of the audience had forgotten he once had: hosting the Oscars.

But what took so long for the producers to figure out this winning formula? Short of Michael Moore and Mel Gibson duking it out, this year's Oscarcast could hardly have been better.



AP

Host Chris Rock gave the Academy Awards a needed pick-me-up, presiding over the broadcast with saucy finesse.



# Backstage joy at Academy Awards

BY BETH HARRIS  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood's biggest stars walked off-camera, dazed but delighted, into hugs and high-fives.

"Yeah!" an Oscar trophy girl whooped backstage when Jamie Foxx was announced as the best actor winner at Sunday night's Academy Awards.

After an emotional speech, Foxx followed presenter Charlize Theron into the wings. They embraced and kissed, whispering to each other.

Surprise presenter Julia Roberts ended up with a prize of her own, even though she wasn't nominated.

She gave Clint Eastwood the best director Oscar, and "when he was finished, instead of giving offense, he went back to his seat, so I have the envelope," Roberts said, waving it in the air.

After the show, presenter Samuel L. Jackson stopped host Chris Rock in the hallway and told him, "You did it, man. Awesome."

Even former Oscar winners were feeling the tension of Hollywood's biggest night.

"I'm nervous," Gwyneth Paltrow confessed, waving her hands in the air. "Nobody's watching, right? Who cares," she joked.

After the show ended, the backstage hallway was busy, choked with lingering, chatting celebrities.

Earlier, the hall was the scene of a series of intimate moments, as presenters tracked down win-

ners to hand over the torn white envelope with the winner's name inside. The informal little ceremonies have become something of an Oscar tradition outside the spotlight and away from cameras.

Supporting actor winner Morgan Freeman was chased by presenter Renee Zellweger.

"Mr. Freeman, I think you should keep this," she said, sliding the envelope containing his name into his hand.

"Congratulations," said Zellweger, an Oscar winner last year, as she hugged a new member of the exclusive club.

Cate Blanchett, who won supporting actress for "The Aviator," wandered down a backstage hall with a dazed look on her face. She asked presenter Tim Robbins, "Was it really my name?"

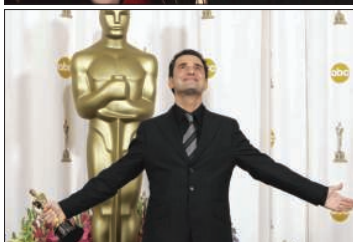
He laughed and assured her that her name was in the envelope he was carrying for her.

When Freeman emerged into the crowded backstage hallway, he was greeted by hearty applause from bystanders and high-fives from members of the American Boychoir, waiting to take the stage with R&B star Beyoncé.

At one point, the Oscars resembled the Grammys when Beyoncé, Josh Groban, Prince and Sean "P. Diddy" Combs converged in the wings.

Beyoncé enveloped the diminutive Prince in a hug and whispered, "Are you having a party tonight?" "Yes," the singer murmured.

"I hope we can come," she replied.



## Eastwood scores Oscar knockout

Clint Eastwood and "Million Dollar Baby" scored big with the Academy Sunday night, as the film about a female boxer and her trainer landed Best Picture, Director and Actress awards.



Picture "Million Dollar Baby"

Actor Jamie Foxx, "Ray"

Actress Hilary Swank, "Million Dollar Baby"

Supporting Morgan Freeman, Actor "Million Dollar Baby"

Supporting Cate Blanchett, Actress "The Aviator"

Director Clint Eastwood, "Million Dollar Baby"

Source: Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences AP

**Top left:** Oscar presenter Renee Zellweger congratulates Morgan Freeman backstage Sunday after he won the Oscar for best supporting actor for his role in "Million Dollar Baby." A winner last year, Zellweger chased Freeman down backstage to give him the envelope bearing his name as recipient of the Academy Award.

**Left:** Jorge Drexler poses with his Oscar for best original song for "Al Otro Lado Del Rio" from the motion picture "The Motorcycle Diaries" during the ceremony Sunday in Los Angeles.

AP photos

## Winning actors Freeman, Foxx make history

BY DAVID GERMAIN  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Jamie Foxx and Morgan Freeman made it another record night for black actors at the Academy Awards, their wins coming just three years after Denzel Washington and Halle Berry shattered the Oscars' racial ceiling.

"It means that Hollywood is continuing to make history," Freeman said backstage.

"We're evolving with the rest of the world." Foxx, who went into Sunday's competition as one of the most certain front-runners in Oscar history, won the best actor prize for his extraordinary emulation of Ray Charles in the biopic "Ray." Freeman took the supporting actor honor for his role in "Million Dollar Baby."

In his acceptance speech, Foxx recalled being introduced years ago to pioneering black actor Sidney Poitier.

"He said, 'I give you responsibility.' So I'm taking that responsibility tonight," Foxx said. "Thanks, Sidney."

It was only the second time in the Oscars' 77-year history that blacks earned two of the four acting awards, following Washington and Berry's lead-acting wins for "Training Day" and "Monster's Ball."

With a supporting actor nomination for the hit-man thriller "Collateral," Foxx, 37, also became the first black actor to compete in two categories in the same year.

This time out, blacks overall had their best year ever at the Oscars, earning a record five of 20 acting nominations. Don Cheadle and Sophie Okonedo were nomi-



**Morgan Freeman, left, shakes hands with Jamie Foxx backstage after both actors won Oscars Sunday at the 77th Academy Awards in Los Angeles. Freeman won best supporting actor honors for 'Million Dollar Baby' and Foxx for best actor in 'Ray.'**

nated for "Hotel Rwanda."

Nominated three times previously, Freeman, 67, won for his role as a worldly wise ex-boxer doing odd jobs at a gym run by his best pal (Clint Eastwood).

Berry's and Washington's wins were viewed as a sign of progress.

"Things are changing," Berry said before the ceremony. "I knew that three years ago."

## Oscar quotes

Quotes from the Academy Awards:

"She's here with me again tonight, so at 96, I'm thanking her for her genes. ... I figure I'm just a kid. I've got a lot of stuff to do yet."

— Clint Eastwood, whose mother was with him when he won the best director Oscar in 1993 and again on Sunday

"I don't know what I did in this life to deserve all of this. I'm just a girl from a trailer park who had a dream."

— Best actress winner Hilary Swank

"It's a great night tonight. We have four black nominees tonight. It's kinda like Def Oscar Jam tonight."

— Oscar host Chris Rock

"She was my first acting teacher. She told me stand up straight, shoulders back. Act like you've got some sense. We would go places and I was wild-eyed. She said act like you've been someone. And when I would act the fool, she would whip me."

— Jamie Foxx, giving tribute to his late grandmother, Estelle

"I don't know what's more frightening, being watched by millions of people, or the hundreds of people that are going to be annoyed with me tomorrow for not mentioning them."

— Animated feature Oscar winner Brad Bird, writer-director of "The Incredibles"

From The Associated Press

# Source: BTK serial killer suspect confesses

BY ROXANA HEGEMAN

The Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. — The police chief warned Monday that public speculation could complicate the BTK serial killings investigation and vowed that suspect Dennis Rader will "not be tried in the media, but rather in a court of law."

Rader, the churchgoing family man and Cub Scout leader arrested Friday, was being held in connection with 10 deaths between 1974 and 1991. An initial court appearance was set for Tuesday. A source close to the investigation said he had confessed to six killings.

"The guy is telling us about the murders," the source said on the condition of anonymity.

Rader, 59, was being held in lieu of \$50 million bail. Police had long linked the BTK killer to eight murders but added two more on Saturday after Rader's arrest and said their investigation was continuing. The nickname

comes from the killer's own writings to authorities and stands for "Bind, Torture, Kill."

The source also said investigators were looking at three other killings. But Police Chief Norman Williams repeated the figure of 10 killings.

Rader was scheduled to appear in court Tuesday via video so prosecutors could recite yet-to-be-filed criminal charges against him and so the judge could review bail. It was unclear whether Rader had a lawyer.

Prosecutors had said initially they could not pursue the death penalty against Rader because the 10 murders linked to BTK happened when Kansas did not have the death penalty. The state restored capital punishment in 1994.

The source said police also were looking into whether Rader was responsible for the deaths of two Wichita State University students as well as a woman who lived down the street from another known victim of BTK.

It was unclear when the three

slayings occurred, but the source said one of them took place while Kansas' death penalty was in effect.

The BTK killer re-emerged over the last year, taunting police with letters and packages sent to media outlets. Authorities have declined to say what led them to zero in on Rader, a married father of two and an active member of a Lutheran church.

He was anything but a recluse. His job as a city code enforcement supervisor required daily contact with the public, and he even appeared on television in 2001 in his uniform for a story on vicious dogs running loose in Park City.

Before becoming a municipal employee, Rader worked for a home-security company, where he held several positions that allowed him access to customers' homes, including a role as installation manager. He worked for ADT Security Systems from 1974 to 1989 — the same time as a majority of the BTK killings.

Associated Press writer David Todoroff contributed to this report from Wichita.



Gerald Mansholt, bishop of Central State Synod of the Episcopal National Church, is interviewed Sunday following a service at Christ Lutheran Church in Wichita, Kan. Dennis Rader, a suspect in the BTK killings, is a member of the church.

## Bush wants to work with governors to fix Medicaid

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush said the nation's governors on Monday that he recognizes their alarm over soaring Medicaid costs and proposed federal cutbacks and vowed to work with them toward a compromise.

"We want Medicaid to work," Bush said. "We also recognize that the system needs to be reformed. And we want to work with you to do so," he added.

While overhauling Social Security dominates discussions in the nation's capital, financing problems with Medicaid is commanding most of the attention in the 50 state capitals.

Bush has sought \$40 billion in cuts in the program. Much of that would come from stopping states from using certain accounting techniques to draw down federal Medicaid funds. "The governors are on the front line of Medicaid, I know full well," Bush said.

Governors brought a mixed message to the meeting: Republicans and Democrats alike are bucking the president's budget cuts to Medicaid, while embracing some of his reforms and pushing for federal willingness to allow states to experiment more.

The Medicaid cuts would cause

severe problems at home, governors said. "I don't think there are any divisions among governors" on the spending reductions, said Ohio Gov. Bob Taft, a Republican.

"The real issue is it's governors against the White House and Congress."

At the same time, governors of both parties attending their annual winter meeting say the \$300 billion-plus, \$2 million-patient program is growing too fast to continue with the status quo. It's time for bigger reforms.

Their line echoes the stance of Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt, a former Utah governor. Leavitt spent much of the two days leading up to the White House meeting trying to win support for Bush's budget proposals and in hearing the concerns of governors, according to state chief executives and Leavitt aides.

But consensus was elusive on either sweeping support or sweeping reforms. So far, governors agreed only to oppose the cuts and tentatively embrace elements of the budget plan that aim to drive down drug prices and discourage the middle-class elderly from relying on Medicaid for nursing home care.

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# Prosecutor lays out case against Michael Jackson

By LINDA DEUTSCH

The Associated Press

SANTA MARIA, Calif. — A prosecutor laid out the child molestation and conspiracy case against Michael Jackson on Monday, saying his 15-year-old accuser was abused and employees tried to silence him and his family by warning that his mother could be killed.

In his opening statement, District Attorney Thomas Sneddon also said that Jackson showed the boy adult material on the Internet from the first time he stayed at Neverland in 2000, when the boy was 10 years old.

Opening statements began after Superior Court Judge Rodney S. Melville read the indictment to the jury, revealing the names of five unindicted alleged co-conspirators. All are Jackson employees.

The judge also read 28 overt acts allegedly committed in a conspiracy surrounding the alleged molestation of the boy, a cancer patient, at Jackson's Neverland ranch and a purported attempt to keep his family silent.

Sneddon referred to the boy by name after telling the court it would be impossible to proceed without using the real names of the child and his family.

Sneddon, Santa Barbara County's top prosecutor, told the jury that the case was about Jackson's "desperate attempt" to salvage his career after the airing



Michael Jackson

of the television documentary "Living With Michael Jackson," in which the pop star is seen holding hands with the boy and saying he allows children to sleep in his bed.

Jackson had intended to exploit the boy by using the documentary to demonstrate how the singer helped him through his cancer, Sneddon said. He said Jackson told him what to say.

"He never told the boy that this video was anything other than an audition," Sneddon said.

Sneddon said "Jackson's world was rocked" when the documentary aired in early 2003 and backfired by creating negative publicity.

At that point, he said, Jackson's team tried to get the boy and his family to rebut it.

The prosecutor said the molestation occurred after those events, in February or March 2003, when the boy was 13. He described two specific incidents of molestation, including one when Jackson reached into the boy's underpants and masturbated the boy and himself.

The defense opening statement was to follow the prosecution's presentation.

The defense has cast Jackson as the target of a money-hungry mother who coached her son to spin stories when it looked like their celebrity benefactor would cut them off. The defense will present evidence that the mother has sued others in the past claiming abuse.

## Supreme Court will hear case on civil jurisdiction

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court said Monday it will use a renters' lawsuit claiming personal injury from toxic mold in apartments to clarify when plaintiffs can sue in federal or state court.

The question is a hot political topic, since consumers often pursue claims in state courts, where large payouts in class-action lawsuits tend to be made. Earlier this month, President Bush signed leg-

islation aimed at steering big-money lawsuits to federal courts.

Under federal rules, a defendant has a right to "remove" a case from state to federal court when the two parties are citizens of different states and the claimed damages exceed \$75,000.

At issue is whether Virginia renters Christophe and Juanita Roche can sue their landlord, Lincoln Property Co., in Virginia state court over exposure to toxic mold in their apartment. The company has a subsidiary in Virginia.

### Monday's Supreme Court highlights

■ Heard arguments on whether foreign cruise lines sailing in U.S. waters must comply with a federal disabilities law requiring better access for passengers in wheelchairs.

■ Agreed to consider whether states may tax motor fuel that is sold on Indian reservations in a case involving the Prairie Band Potawatomi tribe in Kansas.

■ Said it will consider whether a whistleblower prosecutor may sue his former employers for retaliation after he reported possible wrongdoing by the sheriff's office.

■ Agreed to review whether a federal appeals court may examine the sufficiency of evidence in a civil jury case when a party failed to move for a new trial.

■ Declined to hear the appeal of Panos Tsolainos, the former Louisiana shipping executive serving a life sentence for running over his ex-wife with a car.

■ Asked for the U.S. solicitor general's views in a case challenging a multimillion dollar award against North Carolina-based Laboratory Corp. of America for patent infringement involving a test that helps predict strokes, heart attacks and dementia.

— The Associated Press

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# U.S. kills slaughter of wild horses

BY SCOTT SONNER  
The Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — For the first time in more than a generation, the Mustang — the very symbol of the American West — can be slaughtered for horsemeat.

In December, Congress repealed the 34-year-old ban on the slaughter of the wild horses that run free across the West. The move has brought a powerful backlash from activists, who want to reinstate full protection for the mustangs.

"It is really a slap in the face to the American people," said Betty Kelly, co-founder of the horse protection group Wild Horse Spirit in Virginia City, Nev. Acting on behalf of ranchers who say the horses eat forage needed by cattle, Sen. Conrad Burns, R-Mont., attached the amendment in December to a spending bill that President Bush signed into law.

It allows for the sale for slaughter of some older and unwanted horses that are captured during the periodic government roundups aimed at reducing the wild population, now estimated at 33,000 across 10 Western states. About 19,000 of the horses are in Nevada.

A bill to reinstate the slaughter ban was introduced in Congress last month. Responsibility for



A herd of wild horses is rounded up in July on the Diamond Mountain range near Eureka, Nev. Overpopulation of the herds requires the Bureau of Land Management to round up the horses. The horses will either be adopted out or sent to sanctuaries in the Midwest.

rounding up horses on federal land and selling them rests with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, which has yet to send any of the animals to slaughter.

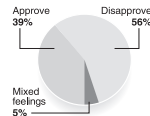
BLM officials said the agency is reaching out to animal protection groups and is optimistic that before the summer, it will find new homes for the 8,900 horses and burros that could be subject to slaughter. "We realize it is a challenge, but we think there are owners out there that would provide the kind of care we are looking for," BLM spokesman Tom Gorey said from Washington, D.C.

The issue has dogged the Interior Department and Congress since Nevada's Velma Johnson, also known as Wild Horse Annie, and a legion of schoolchildren persuaded Congress to outlaw the use of motor vehicles to hunt the mustangs in 1959. That was followed by the Wild Horse and Burro Protection Act of 1971.

## Many uneasy about retirement finances

Almost half of Americans who haven't retired say they don't think they're doing a good job of preparing finances for their retirement, according to a recent poll.

Do you approve, disapprove or have mixed feelings about the way George W. Bush is handling Social Security?



The poll was conducted for the AP by Ipsos-Public Affairs from Feb. 22-24. The poll of 1,000 adults has a margin of sampling error of  $\pm 3$  percentage points.

SOURCE: Ipsos Public Affairs for AP

Asked to adults not retired:

Looking to your retirement, how confident are you that you will have financial resources to live comfortably?



Not at all confident Not sure 1%

Do you think you will have any work pay after you retire?

Yes response: 63%

For money to make ends meet money to retire



## Pol: Americans fret about retirement

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Millions of Americans are uneasy about their financial prospects in old age — a nervousness that complicates President Bush's uphill efforts to persuade them to accept dramatic changes he's proposing for Social Security.

Almost half of Americans who haven't retired say they don't think they're doing a good job of getting ready for that time in their lives, an Associated Press poll found. Many say they're not confident they'll have enough money to live comfortably after they quit working.

"People are trapped in a dilemma," said Robert Blendon, a polling expert at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. "They know they're not saving enough. They can't count on Social Security and they're not sure these private accounts will be better. They're not sure what to do."

In this uneasy climate, Bush's plan to allow personal accounts within Social Security hasn't

caught fire with the public. The plan calls for letting younger workers put part of their Social Security payroll taxes in private investment accounts.

More than half of Americans, say they oppose his plan to create personal accounts, while 39 percent say they support it, according to the poll conducted for AP by Ipsos-Public Affairs.

A question about Bush's handling of the present Social Security system drew similar responses, with 56 percent saying they disapprove of his performance and 39 percent approving. Five percent said they had mixed feelings.

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (Feb. 26)	102.00
South Korean won (Feb. 26)	382.00
Euro cents (Feb. 26)	1.3535
Dollar buys (Feb. 26)	67.788
British pound (Feb. 26)	1.7336
Commercial rates	
Saudi Arabia (Dinar)	2.377
British pound	\$1.9186
Canada (Canadian dollar)	0.6921
Denmark (Krone)	\$5.332
Egypt (Pound)	\$1.3242/100
France (Euro)	6.5596
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7994
Hungary (Forint)	133.49
Iceland (Krona)	66.665
Israel (Sheqel)	1.8369
Japan (Yen)	105.21
Kuwait (Dinar)	2.2619
Norway (Krone)	6.2565
Philippines (Peso)	54.73
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7501
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3535
South Korea (Won)	1,067.50
Switzerland (Franc)	1.4536
Thailand (Baht)	38.46
Turkey (New Lira)	1,4045

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For financial purposes, the U.S. dollar is used for all military banking facilities. Commercial rates are interbank rates for reference only. All figures are foreign exchange rates for the dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

## PRECIOUS METALS

New York Merc exchange	
Gold	\$434.90
Silver	\$7.291

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.50
Discount rate	5.50
Federal funds market rate	2.5025
3-month bill	2.74
30-year bond	4.25

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

## U.S. seniors look to Europe for drugs

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Activists for older Americans are exploring buying prescription drugs from Europe and Asia because of concerns that the Canadian government will shut off the flow of cheaper drugs to the United States.

Several groups from northern states plan to meet in Philadelphia this month to discuss banding together to buy drugs from outside North America.

They would use countries that are listed in an importation bill pending in the Senate that authorizes

purchase of drugs from Canada, Australia, Japan, New Zealand and members of the European Union.

"As it becomes harder and harder to get drugs from Canada, we are all looking to explore options elsewhere," said Lee Graczyk, legislative director of the Minnesota Senior Federation.

The supply of some drugs from Canada has already decreased as American manufacturers cut off sales to Canadian pharmacies that sell to U.S. customers. Now, the Canadian government is considering several proposals that

could choke off Internet sales of drugs, such as requiring that people see Canadian doctors to get drugs in that country.

President Bush's administration opposes importation of drugs from abroad, arguing the practice is unsafe. Importing drugs into the United States is technically illegal, but the Food and Drug Administration generally does not stop small amounts purchased for personal use.

The FDA says allowing drugs from Europe raises even more concerns than importing them from Canada.

## Cents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

### Better wages, benefits

The Associated Press

As general economic conditions improve, employers may be slightly more generous about wage increases when contract talk time arrives, according to a survey of companies' bargaining objectives.

However, employers are still keen on achieving labor concessions when it comes to the pricey arena of health care and insurance benefits, with 69 percent saying they need to pursue savings in those areas. But almost that percentage, 59 percent, says better wages might be an option.

And where would employers most like to cut or eliminate benefits? Prescription drug coverage led that group, with nearly a third (32 percent) citing that cost. That was followed by doctor visits (28 percent), hospital coverage (26 percent) and surgical coverage (26 percent).

Almost a fourth of employers that have restrictions on outsourcing or subcontracting will be seeking to curtail or eliminate those provisions in 2005. The results are from a survey of 100 U.S. companies by Washington-based BNA Inc., which publishes financial reports and other analysis for business.

## PETA Internet competition spotlights sexy vegetarians

By MATT EHLERS

Raleigh (N.C.) News & Observer

Elizabeth Holloway has found herself a sexy kind of man meat.

Make that man say. And she wants everyone to know.

His name is Kyle Chalk, they've been dating just under a year and are in love (thanks for asking).

But is she trying to keep him to herself? Heck, no. Holloway is so proud of her boyfriend, his blue eyes and his diet, that she entered him into a contest looking to find the Sexiest Vegetarian Alive, a move that invites strangers to check him out on the Internet and place their votes.

Thing is, she never told him a thing about it.

"He's kind of shy," said Holloway.

way, 23. "I didn't think he'd be up for it."

Sponsored by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, the contest follows the organization's naming each year of a sexiest male and female vegetarian celebrity. (Rapper Andre 3000 and actress Alicia Silverstone won last year.) For the regular-people version, PETA received about 200 male nominations and more than 250 female nominations, which the staff whittled down to 10 women and nine men.

Chalk found out only when he learned he had become a finalist. He decided to go with it. "I'm down for doing something positive," he said.

You can vote at [govet.com](http://govet.com) until March 11.





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## PAO prefers party line

I read with great amusement Col. MaryAnn B. Cummings' Feb. 27 letter "Complete picture on curfew," in which she stated that the Feb. 13 cover story concerning U.S. Forces Korea's curfew is "inaccurate and incomplete." This is definitely a case of the "pot calling the kettle black." I am certain that if the article contained any thing other than the "party line," it was "inaccurate and incomplete" as far as USFK command representatives are concerned. However, I somehow think there was more truth than fiction in the subject article.

I was really amused when I read her comment that Stars and Stripes "failure to report the news in an objective, balanced manner has led to misinformation and confusion among members of USFK regarding the curfew policy." Does she really believe information coming out of the USFK public affairs office is "objective and balanced"? Her attempt to explain the policy is a "verbalism copy" of everything they are already heard.

An interesting note it has been learned that the authority to respond to Freedom of Information Act requests has been pulled from local public affairs offices in Korea when there are requests for information regarding the curfew and force protection. Any related requests for this information must go to the central Public Affairs Office only. Is the reason for this to ensure "objective and balanced" information?

Bill Evans

Camp Humphreys, South Korea

## USFK explanation falls short

To Col. MaryAnn Cummings, who wrote the Feb. 27 letter, complete picture on curfew. You are correct when you said that the Feb. 13 cover story and related articles concerning U.S. Forces Korea's curfew were inaccurate and incomplete. The article did not mention that this curfew was based on flawed information. It did not mention that the U.S. Embassy has stated that this curfew is a U.S. Army policy issue and has nothing to do with the embassy.

The U.S. Embassy does have responsibility for informing U.S. citizens overseas of any dangers in their area, the last time I checked.

The embassy has issued no travel restrictions or warnings for tourists. Are you saying the U.S. Embassy is knowingly putting American citizens at risk? Or are you saying that the commander of USFK, Gen. Leon J. LaPorte, has not shared all his information with the U.S. Embassy so they can make a valid assessment of the threat to issue such warnings? Is it that Gen. LaPorte and his staff have conspired to subjugate American citizens under the false pretense of "force protection"?

You say there is a "What is it?" (And don't hand me that "global threat of terrorism" line: Every place has that and they are not under curfew.) The only threat to my way of life in this country resides in Seoul and I don't mean the South

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Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, tone and clarity.

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Korean government. If there is a threat of this magnitude to require the abridgment of constitutional rights, where is the last time I checked? Where is the hazard-ous-duty pay? When are you going to tell new people: "No more accompanied tours?"

Where is the noncombatant evacuation operation of my dependents and that of the rest of the "team"? When you said that the USFK commander has the inherent authority to take appropriate actions as he sees fit, does that include drafting private American citizens into "his" Army? I would like to know when that was put into my contract.

I would also like to know when this new authority was granted to be briefed to the civil service and contracting communities. I am sure this will be a real recruiting plug for future hires. One suggestion: Get your checkbook out, since I doubt anyone is going to come here without significant incentive. You want to lock me up? Fine — pay me for my time.

You say "The commander has the inherent authority to take appropriate measures to ensure the readiness, health, safety and protection of the force." I guess this includes the authority to photograph American citizens off-post who are breaking no South Korean laws.

I retired in 1997. I did my time and never in that period saw an abuse of authority on this magnitude. Where does Gen. LaPorte get the "inherent authority" to deprive law-abiding citizens of their constitutional rights? Using this logic of a threat, what is the next step, lockdown the entire United States since they have a large terrorist threat there but we do here? I forget, citizens may still have the right to bear arms.

Air Force Maj. Rick Durkin (retired)  
Anjung-ri, South Korea

## Rookie mistakes on veterans

As I have talked to several congressional

al aides and communicated with a few media personnel over the past year, one common theme seems to strike me. Most of them don't know the difference between a military veteran and a military retired veteran. I would like to offer the following as a guideline to use when talking and writing about veterans affairs:

■ A "military retiree" is a person who served in the active military, naval or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable (see United States Code, Title 38 — Veterans' Benefits, Part I, Chapter 1, Sec. 101, Definitions, paragraph (2) at <http://assembler.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode38/uscode38.0000101----0000.html>).

■ A "military retiree" is an former member of the uniformed services who is entitled, under statute, to retired, retirement or retain pay. Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to, spending 20 or more years in the military or permanent retirement by reasons of physical disability.

All military retirees are military veterans, but not all military veterans are military retirees.

It appears that some congressional leaders, their staff members, the news media and the American people don't realize that there is a difference between a veteran who spends 91 days in the military and is discharged and a veteran who spends 20 to 30 years in the military and retires. They don't seem to understand that medical care promises were made to both groups, but that they are different.

The military retiree was promised no-cost medical care for himself and his eligible dependents for life at military treatment facilities. The military retiree was promised medical care at a VA hospital or clinic basically for service-connected disabilities or medical conditions.

Some folks get confused about what we are trying to accomplish here since we make a distinction between the military retirees and the military veterans. We make this distinction to avoid the confusion that results when calculations are made concerning how much it will cost to finance the military retiree health care that was promised.

We are told that in this country the veterans community numbers about 26.5 million. The military retirees (a subset of the veterans community) number about 1.8 million. Sometimes the military retirees get lost in the shuffle. Sometimes the wrong number is used when making calculations.

Air Force Capt. Ronald J. Shaw (retired)  
Orem, Utah

## Trudeau strip a 'piece of crap'

As a Marine colonel based in Iraq, I am offended that the supposed "newspaper" of the services would choose to include "Doonesbury" that left-wing subculture on-slandering piece-of-crap comic by [Garry] Trudeau. Can't Stripes find anything better on which to spend its money?

Al Asad Air Base, Iraq

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

## Doonesbury Flashbacks





## Fuel truck stolen

**ME** MILFORD — Police are investigating the theft of a heating fuel truck that was stolen and later found drained of the 2,000 gallons of heating oil and kerosene it was carrying.

The truck was stolen from Halcant's Fuel & Bottled Gas Co. in Milford, according to the Penobscot County Sheriff's Department.

When it was found at 3:45 a.m. more than 20 miles away in Carmel, the keys were in the ignition, but the 1,650 gallons of heating oil and 350 gallons of kerosene were missing, said Deputy Will Sheehan. He valued the fuel at \$3,000.

## Fatal accident

**IL** ST. PETERSBURG — An elderly Illinois woman drove her Lincoln Town Car through a Wachovia Bank parking lot and crashed into a concrete overhang, killing a bank customer who had just emerged from the building.

The customer, Katherine Weber, 51, of St. Petersburg, was taken to Bayfront Medical Center, where she died a few hours later.

Police said Marjory B. Thompson, 88, was driving a silver late-model Lincoln when the car accelerated, jumped a curb and slammed into a support holding an overhang that protected the east entrance to the bank. The impact caused the overhang to collapse onto the walkway.

## Police seize \$5M cash

**NJ** CRANBURY — State police seized more than \$5 million in cash from a tractor-trailer found idling unattended for two days on the shoulder of a roadway, authorities said.

The driver, Salvatore Delarosa, 46, of San Bernardino, Calif., was arrested on a money laundering charge.

"The cash is the proceeds of illegal conduct, possibly narcotics activity, but that still remains under investigation," Attorney General Peter Harvey said. Investigators have not yet determined the exact source of the money.

Delarosa was seen near the vehicle, said state police spokesman Capt. Al Della Fave.

## Train kills deaf man

**PA** KILLED — A man struck and killed by a train was so hard of hearing that he probably never heard it approaching, his brother said.

Forrest "Jack" Rhoades Jr., 54, died several hours after he was struck by a slow-moving train as he walked to a friend's house, authorities said.

"He was stubborn and did not want to go get help" for his hearing and sight deficiencies, said his brother, Jason Rhoades.

"He left his bifocals here at my house."

Rhoades died in the hospital about three hours after he was struck by the train on Feb. 11.

"He was a good brother. He was

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

always there for me," Jason Rhoades said.

## Pot seized at fish shop

**RI** NEWPORT — Suspecting something fishy at Long Wharf Seafood, detectives searched the retail store and left with evidence that some customers were buying more than just fillets of cod and haddock.

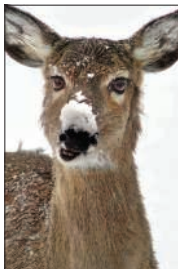
The investigators allege that store owner John Caminiti was selling marijuana out of the business, according to Sgt. James Quinn. They seized more than 20 half-ounce bags of marijuana, mostly from store freezers.

## Drug cartels growing

**TX** DALLAS — At least three drug-related slayings in North Texas are being blamed on a team of rogue Mexican commandos accused of orchestrating dozens of murders along the U.S.-Mexico border, raising fears that the drug war is moving north.

Dallas and federal officials say eight to 10 Zetas — former members of the Mexican army who defected to Mexico's Gulf drug cartel in the late 1990s — have been operating in North Texas since 2003, The Dallas Morning News reported.

The Zetas are accused of fatally shooting 26-year-old Christian Alejandro Meza in December. Authorities also believe they were involved in the deaths of Mathew Frank Geisler and Brandon Gallegos, both 19 and from Laredo,



## Oh deer

A deer wandering through the hills of Oglebay Park in Wheeling, W.Va., gets a pile of snow on its nose while looking for food.

whose bodies were found in a burning sport utility vehicle in September. Both had been shot.

"We're seeing an alarming number of incidents involving the same type of violence that's become all too common in Mexico, right here in Dallas," a former Dallas narcotics officer told the newspaper on the condition of anonymity.

## License reinstated

**CT** HARTFORD — Jonathan Googel, a key figure in the biggest real estate fraud in Connecticut history, regained his real estate license.

Googel and business partner Benjamin Sisti built a \$2 billion real estate empire that collapsed in 1990, costing over 6,000 investors more than \$300 million. Googel was sentenced to seven years in prison.

## Missing rings

**ME** WATERTVILLE — Police are investigating the possible theft of four rings valued at more than \$20,000 from Mount St. Joseph nursing home.

The jewelry was reported missing by relatives of nursing home patients in two separate incidents on two floors at the nursing home, said Waterville police Det. David Caron.

The first incident was reported Feb. 4 by Fritz Bushmann, whose mother, Elizabeth, is a patient at the nursing home and who is missing a ring worth about \$15,000, according to Caron. Bushmann told police he saw the ring the night before when he was at the nursing home.

## Mine fire flickering out

**VA** OAKWOOD — A fire that's been burning for 12 days in a massive southwestern Virginia coal mine appears to be flickering out.

A bore sunk 2,400 feet into Consol Energy Inc.'s Buchanan County mine to the source of the fire found no evidence of flames or smoke, and the ambient temperature was 63 degrees.

"It would have been bad news if it was 800 degrees," Consul vice president Thomas Hoffman said. "If that means the fire's out, I don't know."

Hoffman said several more probes still must be sunk to be sure, noting that the 24-square-mile mine is Virginia's largest. "These things are the size of small cities underground," he said.

## Kitchen duty a bad idea

**PA** LEBANON — An inmate at Lebanon County Prison was convicted by a jury Thursday of assault for throwing urine in the face of another inmate who was on kitchen duty.

Jurors deliberated for only about an hour before convicting Warren Eugene Jeffries, 40, of a charge of assault by a prisoner.

The other inmate, Omar A. Ortiz, testified that he bent down to pick up an empty food tray placed in front of Jeffries' cell on Aug. 14 when a cup of urine was thrown in his face.



**Welcome home, dad** Sgt. Richard Hoffman kisses his 8-month-old daughter, Isabella, who was born while he was deployed. Hoffman and other members of the Army Reserve 343rd Quartermaster Company participated in a homecoming ceremony at the company's headquarters in Rock Hill, S.C.



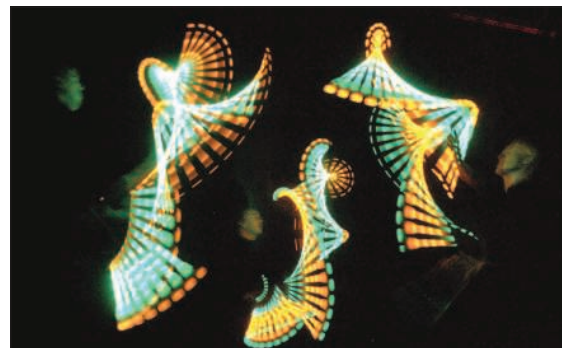
**Parallel lives** The first wave of cross-country skiers floods the trail at the start of the American Birkebeiner at Cable Union Airport in Cable, Wis. The 51-kilometer race ended in Hayward, Wis.



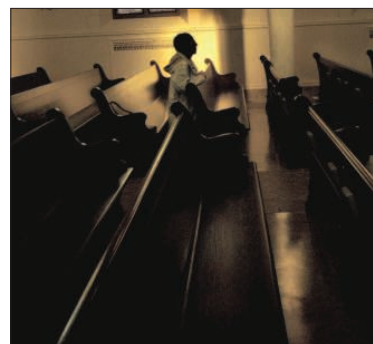
## Car sandwich

Fairfield, Calif., Police Cpl. Don Schneider writes a report after a four-car pile-up. The driver of the Volkswagen, as well as the driver of the Chevrolet resting on top of it, were transported to Kaiser Hospital and North Bay Medical Center with unknown injuries.





**Lighting up the stage** Members of LUMA, a light performance group, present an illuminating show at the Flickinger Center for Performing Art in Alamogordo, N.M.



**Peace and tranquility** A parishioner at St. Ann's Cathedral in Great Falls, Mont., prays the rosary before the start of noon Mass.



**Horsin' around** Boston Red Sox first baseman Kevin Millar pets Mike, a 6-year-old, 2,000-pound Clydesdale horse, during a break at batting practice at spring training camp in Fort Myers, Fla.



**Fur Rendezvous** A snow sculpture of a bear and walrus performing an Eskimo dance is seen in Anchorage, Alaska, as part of the Fur Rendezvous snow sculpture competition. Each contestant is given a block of snow from which to sculpt their art, with the winners going to the National Snow Sculpting Competition.

## Litterbug jewel thieves

**CT** GREENWICH — Two robbery suspects being chased by police hurled diamond rings and pearl necklaces onto a highway before their truck crashed and they were arrested, authorities said.

Interstate 95 was closed for nearly an hour as officers looked for the jewelry. They filled several bags of watches, rings, necklaces and bracelets, including some pieces worth thousands of dollars each.

Police said the two men forced their way into Manfredi Jewels Ltd. as employees opened it, then handcuffed the four employees at gunpoint and stole jewelry worth \$1.9 million out of a safe that had just been unlocked.

None of the workers was injured. One escaped and called police, and officers chased a sport utility vehicle for 20 miles into New York City, where it crashed.

## Exonerated students

**AR** GREENWOOD — A federal judge has ruled in favor of two honor students suspended over the content of Web pages that drew a parent's protest because of the way they depicted athletes and band members. The judge ordered that no record remain of the suspensions of Ryan Kuhl and Justin Neal.

He also ordered administrators to never mention that the pair had once been wrongly suspended.

## Remodeling for school

**NJ** NEWARK — The Christina school board approved the \$12.8 million purchase of a vacant building at the Pencader Corporate Center to be remodeled into a middle school.

The three-year-old building was occupied for less than a year by a company that made solar panels. The school is expected to open in time for the 2006-07 year.

## Two charged in stabbing

**IN** CLINTON — Two teens have been charged with the stabbing death of a 93-year-old Biloxi, Miss., woman in what police are describing as a botched robbery.

Matthew Craig McKamey and Joshua Ryan Tesague, both 19, are charged with capital murder in the death of Iva Elizabeth Moore. Moore, who lived alone, died of a stab wound to her neck, Biloxi Police Department Capt. Rick Kirk said.

"They broke into the house for burglary purposes and killed the old lady while they were inside," Kirk said. A kitchen knife believed to be the murder weapon was recovered in a wooded area in the vicinity, he said.

The two teens are being held at the county jail under no bond.

## Downtown boost

**RI** PROVIDENCE — Mayor David Cicilline and developers announced plans to build a residential high-rise with luxury condominiums that they say will revitalize the downtown area.

The 32-story, glass-paneled tower will include condominiums priced at \$500,000 to \$2.5 million. Construction on the privately financed, \$90 million project is scheduled to begin in December.

## Detroning the monarch

**AL** MONTGOMERY — The monarch butterfly, Alabama's official state insect since 1989, could be dethroned.

A bill, sponsored by Rep. Sue Schmitz, would end the butterfly's reign as a symbol of Alabama and substitute the queen honey bee as the official state insect.

Schmitz said a beekeeper in her Madison County district suggested the change. She said it would bring attention to the bee industry in Alabama and the help that bees provide in pollinating plants in the agricultural state. So what about the monarch butterfly? "It doesn't bring any money in," she said.

## Fireproof cigarettes

**VT** MONTPELIER — Lawmakers are considering a bill that would require all cigarettes sold in the state be fireproof.

A joint House and Senate committee took testimony on the proposal Friday. One of the witnesses, Russell Sciandra, pulled a pack of Newport menthol cigarettes from his coat pocket and showed them the tiny asterisk on the side of the package near the bar code.

It's the only indication that these cigarettes, which he purchased in New York, had been specially manufactured to burn out rather than smolder if left unattended.

## Governor on defense

**MO** JEFFERSON CITY — Gov. Matt Blunt defended a comment he made during a recent Republican rally that Democrats can be found in Missouri only in places "where nobody wants to live anymore."

Blunt said his point was that Republicans are winning in growing communities. Democratic lawmakers from St. Louis and Kansas City perceived their cities as the targets of Blunt's one-liner.

## \$600M jobs initiative

**MA** BOSTON — Gov. Mitt Romney unveiled a proposed \$600 million jobs initiative he says will help create up to 20,000 new jobs over the next five years. Romney says his bill would attract businesses in areas such as academic research, biotechnology and defense technology. The bill includes \$246 million in tax relief for businesses.

## Salary increase wanted

**TX** AUSTIN — Supreme Court Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson says Texas is losing judges because their salaries haven't kept pace with the times. Jefferson, in his annual State of the Judiciary Speech to legislators, said it's no secret that judges double or triple their salaries by returning to the private sector.

## Trying to ban cameras

**TX** AUSTIN — The Texas House gave preliminary approval to a bill that would ban citizens from using cameras to issue citations to drivers who run red lights. Supporters of such cameras say they decrease side-impact accidents. The sponsor, Rep. Gary Elkins of Houston, said the practice serves as a moneymaking mechanism for cities.

Stories and photos from wire services

# Horoscope

Sagittarius lunar energy ignites fire in the soul. The effort it took to research, explore and embrace the new is now no effort at all — the process is as natural as waking up in the morning. Without fear holding us back, we can leap into the air without a thought or worry about where we'll land. The landing plans itself as it happens.

**TAURUS BIRTHDAY (March 2).** You have much to be proud of this year. Know your mission, and promote it heavily in the next 10 weeks — financial wins and career opportunities are a direct result of your public relations. Work on yourself in a structured environment through April and May. Your personal life blossoms with new confidence. Likely partners are Cancer and Leo.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** A really check is featured. This is a momentary blow to pride but ultimately a breakthrough. Work to eliminate the self-imposed restrictions that have kept you telling the same sob story over and over.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Recent changes have made it impossible for you to go about your business in the same manner as before. But you're feeling brave about your new life. As an exercise, command an audience — take over a room.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Your heart is in the right place. Still, there's a charmingly misbegotten quality to the day's endeavors. One can almost hear Paul Simon softly crooning in the background, "Still crazy after all these years."

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** The conventional method isn't going to work, period. You'll know you're on the right track when you field your share of sideways glances, like you've got poppy seeds stuck in your teeth.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You'll have to build up your nerve and then rebuild it. Anxiousness is a

good sign, though. It means you've got enough going on in your life to really care about what is at stake.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Modern life has modern challenges. If you're not frustrated by technology today, perhaps it's a sign that you should be upgrading. Maybe it's time to get your own Web site — and learn how to use it.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Your "resume" precedes you, both in romance and in business. When friends have something wonderful to say about you, your stock goes up! This year, plant more seeds for future connections.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Tasks that do to you quickly seem to be taking longer — it's because you care more about the outcome. Just because you obsess over a project doesn't mean it will turn out better. In fact, the opposite may be true.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Something important comes out of all your clowning around. Others just wouldn't understand. One can never underestimate the role of whimsy, mischief and magic in the life of a Sagittarius.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You've cultivated a certain degree of confidence, and seeing how well it works, now you'll go even further. First, you'll think confident thoughts, then, you'll write confident words, and finally, you'll take confident action.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** The intersection of two sectors of your life is featured — probably two distinct worlds that you unconsciously have been trying to keep separate. Worry not. You'll be accepted. There is no danger.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Your superior charm and grace are featured. Put them to good use by thanking all of the people who have allowed you to get where you are. This can be done in thought, deed or word — it all counts.

Creators Syndicate

## Holiday Mathis



afternoon, plant more seeds for future connections.

## Calvin and Hobbes



## Jump Start



## Zits



## Kathy



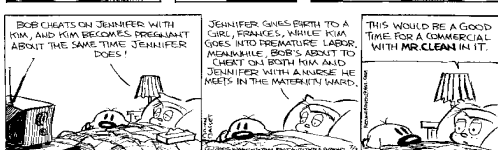
## Hi and Lois



## Beetle Bailey



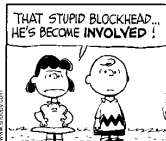
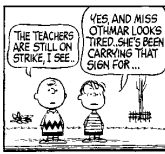
## Red and Rover



## Better or Worse



## Peanuts



Fox Trot



B.C.



Baby Bites



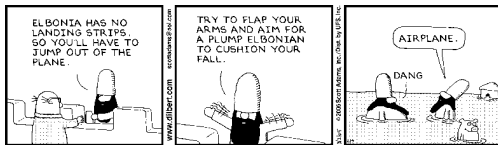
Spider Man



Blonde



Dilbert



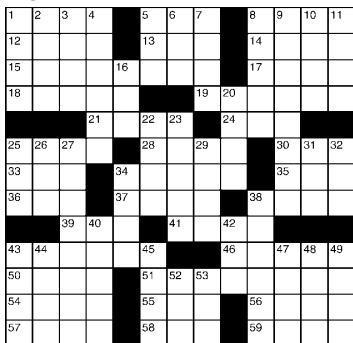
Hagar



Garfield



# Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1960s dance
- Spot on a domino
- Trade
- Top-notch
- Historic time
- Urbanite's shout
- Sharp-spined fish
- The yoke's on them
- Aquarium favorite
- Office holder?
- Grand-scale tale
- LAX info
- Ties up the phone
- Quick meal
- Burst
- Ostrich's cousin
- Bee spots
- Mess up
- Clairol of fashion
- Cow-headed goddess
- Quarry
- Use a microwave
- Burn a bit
- Minimum
- Omery swarm
- Full of excitement
- Beatles song
- Thonged sandal
- Clay, today
- Relaxation
- Remnants
- Symbol of intrigue
- 1/8 of an ounce

## Down

- Speedy
- Memorization method
- Literary categories
- Apiece
- Keogh relative
- Picks up the check
- Brown ermine
- Food wrap
- Skating leap
- Christmas tree, often
- Hiatius
- Links gadgets
- Wading bird
- Honda model
- Solidarity
- Blue?
- Piece of jargon
- "Live at Red Rocks" musician
- Tamcar load
- Snoop
- Hula hoop support
- Supplanted
- Sponsorship
- Idolater's feeling
- Disconcert
- Painter Schiele
- Spring occurrence
- Practice pugilism
- Tower city
- Appear
- Bullying bravo
- Pen point

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## 3-2

## CRYPTOQUIP

NANDY DXRT GXRGPARNRT  
Z MPBBXQ QYX ZBQZID  
DENBPD QZAEBI: "HYP  
QPZANRT XM HYP TANR."  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A PHAROAH  
SNACKS ON LOTS OF CRACKERS IN BED, WILL  
WE END UP WITH A CRUMBY MUMMY?  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals G

# Privacy a hospital patient's choice

**Dear Abby:** I am a nursing supervisor in a large hospital. There is a policy in hospitals that the public does not understand, and it has caused more than a few problems.

Because of privacy laws, all patients admitted to the hospital must be asked if they want to be a "privacy patient" or "a no publicity patient." If they answer yes to that question, it means that if anyone calls, or comes to the hospital, we cannot even acknowledge that the patient is here. We must say, "I don't have a patient listed by that name."

Not surprisingly, this often upsets friends and family members. So please, Abby, remind your readers about the privacy laws. We are not purposely lying to anyone; we are just following the patient's instructions and obeying the rules.

—Frustrated Nurse  
in Ironton, Ohio

**Dear Frustrated:** Thank YOU for injecting an important dose of reality. While some patients may welcome visitors, many more do not. One solution is to assign a particular relative or friend to be the "minister of information."

**Dear Abby:**



When my husband's grandmother died two years ago, my mother-in-law, "Shirley," told us we could go through the items left in her mother's house, take what we wanted, and then discard the rest. I took mostly kitchen stuff—mainly pots and pans.

My birthday was just a week and I had to work late, so Shirley came over and cooked dinner for me. A couple of days later, I was going to cook some lasagna and take it to her home, but after searching high and low, I was unable to locate a particular dish I loved. Finally, after going through every cupboard, I called Shirley to ask where she had put it. She then

informed me that since it was her mother's dish, she had taken it. I was upset and told her I wanted it back. Shirley told me not to hang up on me! My mother-in-law has not spoken to me since, and now she's fighting with my husband because he stood up to defend me.

I don't want a lasagna dish to divide my family, but I refuse to be treated this way. How would you have handled this situation?

—Offended in Odessa, Texas  
**Dear Offended:** Your mother-in-law was wrong to take the dish without asking or letting you know. However, it's possible the item has some sentimental meaning to her.

Bearing that in mind, and in the interest of family harmony, I'd have written Shirley a note telling her that she's welcome to it—and then I'd have gone out and bought myself another lasagna pan.

Letters for this column—in your own and others' names—should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.ueexpress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DAIDE

LIDAP

NAWKEE

THORAU

www.jumble.com

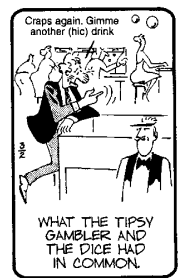
A: THEY

BOUND PROXY ANGINA REDUCE

Yesterday's Jumbles: Answer: How long did the challenger last against the champ?—AROUND A HOUND

## THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argrin



Now arrange the circled letters to form the prize answer as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

# Jokes too crude for polite company

**Dear Annie:** Once again, we've endured an unpleasant visit from my boyfriend's daughter, "Mitzi," and her husband, "Boris." Mitzi is OK, but Boris is intolerable. Unfortunately, Mitzi apparently sees nothing wrong with her husband's behavior. She will occasionally tell him to "shush," but that's about it.



Every time we are in Boris' company, he expounds about bathroom procedures and tells jokes about everything anal. One time, my boyfriend had a private conversation with Mitzi about her husband, and she broke into tears and expected him. She said that he depends us to laugh at his stories. I admit, when I first met him six years ago, he would make mild allusions about some vulgarity in a recent movie, and it could be amusing. But now it occurs every time we are in their company, and it's becoming more and more disgusting.

Mitzi was not raised this way,

and we can't understand why she isn't embarrassed. We have asked Boris to refrain from this kind of talk, but he just ignores us. —Disgusted in Florida  
**Dear Disgusted:** You must be more forceful. Whenever Boris starts one of his stories, stop him midstream, and say you aren't interested in listening to such vulgarity and to please talk about something else. If he won't stop, you can ask him to leave, or you can get up and walk out of the room. Boris continues to do this because you put up with it and he doesn't respect you. Mitzi defends him because she is embarrassed, but thinks this is the way to be "supportive" of her husband. She is mistaken.

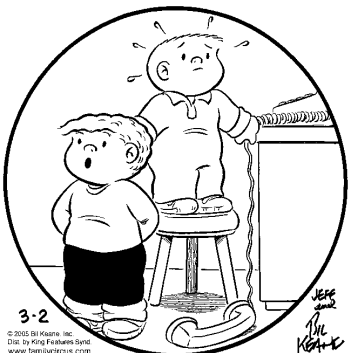
**Dear Annie:** I am "Scared to Death," who wrote about my husband, "Clue," who watched incest porn. After reading the responses you printed, I thought you might appreciate an update.

First, none of Chet's porn ever involved minors. After my letter was printed, I followed your advice and demanded that Chet attend counseling with me. Chet was diagnosed with sexual addiction, and like any addiction, the need escalates, along with the desire for more exciting forms. But addictions can be managed, and the addict can live a normal life through hard work and dedication to being healthy again. Chet voluntarily turned over his Internet password to me, we no longer have porn in the house, and he is a new man. Getting his addiction under control has made him stronger and happier. I'm glad I stayed.

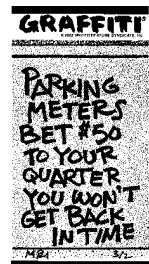
**Still Chet's Wife**  
**Dear Chet's Wife:** We're glad you stayed, too, because it gives Chet a reason to stay clean and be a better man. We want to be the love of two who will make it.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

## Family Circus



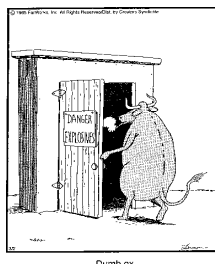
"PJ was pushing the phone buttons and somebody said 'hello.'"



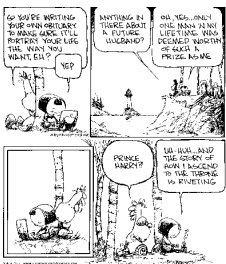
## Dennis the Menace



## The Far Side



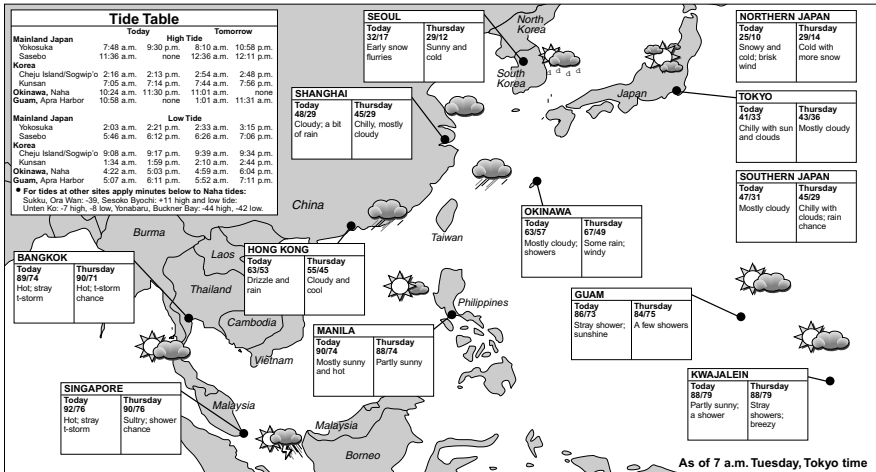
## Non Sequitur





## The Pacific Forecast

AccuWeather.com

Forecasts and graphics, provided  
by AccuWeather.com ©2005

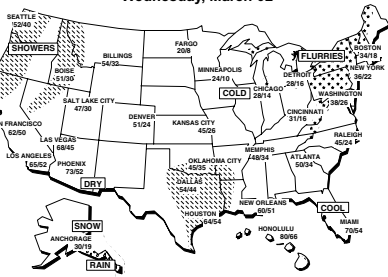
## Extended Forecasts

<b>TOKYO</b> Friday: Rain, high 48, low 37. Saturday: Partly sunny, high 47, low 33.	<b>KADENA</b> Friday: Mostly cloudy, high 55, low 43. Saturday: Partly sunny, high 51, low 42.	<b>SEoul</b> Friday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 28, low 8. Saturday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 24, low 11.	<b>MANILA</b> Friday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 88, low 72. Saturday: Showers, high 86, low 72.	<b>HAGATNA</b> Friday: Showers, high 86, low 75. Saturday: Showers, high 86, low 75.
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## Monday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	57/32	Los Angeles	66/50
Amarillo	59/25	Little Rock	56/31
Anchorage	32/16	Louisville	45/28
Asheville	42/27	Miami	85/57
Baltimore	35/30	Milwaukee	35/19
Birmingham	51/33	Nashville	46/30
Bismarck	27/5	New York	34/30
Boise	51/34	Omaha	31/14
Boston	36/29	Orlando	75/50
Brownsville	79/56	Philadelphia	35/30
Buffalo	38/26	Phoenix	72/52
Burlington	31/22	Pittsburgh	34/28
Charlotte, SC	57/38	Portland, OR	60/46
Charlotte	42/30	Portland, ME	33/25
Cleveland	42/29	Salt Lake City	51/31
Columbus, OH	40/28	St. Louis	39/21
Duluth	20/6	San Antonio	68/49
El Paso	63/36	San Diego	66/55
Hartford	33/26	San Juan	85/72
Helena	48/26	Tampa	73/52
Indianapolis	39/24	Tulsa	46/23
Jacksonville	71/43	Washington, DC	34/30
Kansas City	37/16	Wichita	48/21

## Wednesday, March 02



## U.S. Extended Forecast

Blustery and cold conditions will be found across the eastern half of the nation Wednesday. Snow showers and flurries will occur downwind of the Great Lakes. Meanwhile, high pressure over the northern Plains will keep much of the nation's midsection dry with some sunshine. Tranquil weather is expected in the Southeast. Some light rain may break out in southeast Texas. There will be a couple of showers in the Northwest and northern California. The Southwest will be dry. Cooler-than-average weather will continue to dominate the Northeast and mid-Atlantic states on Thursday and Friday. However, not much snow will be found in these regions.

## Wednesday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	89/74	Wakani	44/31
Beijing	37/16	Kadena AB	63/57
Camp Casey	33/23	Kunsan AB	38/23
Diego Garcia	68/76	Kwajalein	86/79
Hagatna	87/78	Manila	90/74
Hanoi	86/73	Masawa AB	27/13
Hong Kong	71/53	Osan	35/19
Honolulu	63/53	Perth	74/48
	80/66	Pusan	41/28
		Sasebo	25/10
		Sapporo	32/17
		Seoul	48/29
		Shanghai	52/27
		Singapore	85/63
		Sydney	40/27
		Taegu	40/27
		Taipei	66/52
		Tokyo	41/33

## Wednesday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Budapest	69/72	Kabul	49/25	Nairobi	89/56
Buenos Aires	82/61	Kiev	23/16	New Delhi	82/58
Cairo	93/68	Kuwait	80/59	Oslo	18/14
Cancun	75/60	London	41/30	Paris	37/32
Cape Town	83/60	Madrid	46/34	Rio de Janeiro	76/63
Geneva	38/29	Mexico City	73/46	Rome	48/33
Guatemala	39/28	Montreal	24/5	St. Petersburg	10/-2
Honolulu	71/52	Mogadishu	93/79	Stockholm	21/16
Johannesburg	80/52	Moscow	8/-1	Warsaw	25/23



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# Low striving to shift focus to Dodgers

By JOHN NADEL  
The Associated Press

VERO BEACH, Fla. — Derek Lowe doesn't want to talk about Boston anymore, though many aspects of his seven-plus seasons with the Red Sox come up in conversation.

"No one's asking me about this team, this year," Lowe said Monday in the Los Angeles Dodgers' clubhouse. "I'm sick and tired of talking about Boston and the Red Sox."

"I signed here two months ago. We're two days away from starting spring training games. It's time to get serious."

Almost on cue, Lowe greeted a Rawlings representative with a smile, saying: "Dodger Blue here."

Lowe knew he wasn't going to return to Boston long before becoming a hero by winning the final game of all three postseason series as the Red Sox won their first World Series since 1918.

He signed a four-year, \$36 million contract with the Dodgers.

"Obviously when you leave as a free agent, it's not one of the best situations," he said. "But there's more positive (memories) — way more. It's a whole new start here."

"Come Friday, you've got an opportunity to start pitching. A lot of these guys, they've never seen me pitch. You only get one chance to make a first impression."

The 31-year-old right-hander, baseball's second-winningest pitcher over the last three years, probably shouldn't worry about such things.

"You see his ability in big situations — hopefully he can help us out in the same capacity," starter Jeff Weaver said.

Lowe said he signed with the Dodgers because he believes they have a chance to win now and in the future.

"Their No. 1 goal is to win, not just stay afloat," he said. "They put together a team they think can win the World Series. Nobody even knows who's going to be the

Opening Day starter. That's a testament to how good we are."

"I'll go back to Boston — they had five good starters. When you have that kind of thing, you don't go on those dreaded long losing streaks. And eventually, you go on winning streaks. And they have the best closer (Eric Gagne) in baseball. If you can't pitch, you can't win."

Lowe is one of several offseason acquisitions by a team that won the NL West last year, missing the playoffs for the first time since 1996.

"A lot of these guys, I've never talked to before," Lowe said. "You know of them. Jeff Kent, J.D. Drew. I know those guys aren't slackers."

Showing his unfamiliarity with his new team, Lowe first referred to manager Jim Tracy as Paul Tracy before correcting himself. He also referred to outgoing second baseman Alex Cora as Joey, Cora's older brother.

"That's why spring training is so important for us. We have to get to know each other and we have to all be going in the right direction," Lowe said. "It's going to take time to jell together as a group. As far as coming together as a team, you're looking realistically at May, June."

Lowe points to last year's Red Sox as a team that jelled.

It was the best group of guys I've ever played with," he said. "No one had an ego. We got on everybody. We had an unbelievable ability to forget yesterday's game. That's the only way you come back from 3-0."

The Red Sox became the first team in postseason history to bounce back from a 3-0 deficit when they accomplished the feat against the New York Yankees in the AL championship series. They came off a four-game sweep of the St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series.

"We played for each other," Lowe recalled. "The most important thing about team togetherness is when you're going



Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Derek Lowe signs a Boston Red Sox pennant for a fan at DodgerTown in Vero Beach, Fla., Monday. Lowe won the final game of all three playoff series as the Red Sox won their first World Series since 1918.

bad. There's going to be a time this year when we're playing bad. That's when you see what you're made of. That's when things can come apart."

With his outgoing personality, Lowe figures to be a clubhouse leader — especially

to younger guys such as Edwin Jackson, a 21-year-old right-hander battling for the No. 5 spot in the rotation.

"He's a cool dude, real down to earth — someone you're not afraid to go ask for advice," Jackson said.

# Australia's Ogilvy picks up first PGA Tour victory

The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — Returning to the course where he made his PGA Tour debut, Geoff Ogilvy and the Chrysler Classic of Tucson combined for another first.

Ogilvy won his first title in 108 tour starts Sunday, becoming the event's fifth first-time champion in six years by beating Kevin Na on the second hole of a playoff at Tucson National.

"It feels like I've been waiting quite a while, so it is special," said Ogilvy, who started his tour career in Tucson in 2001 and finished third.

The 27-year-old Australian rolled in an 18-foot, downhill putt for birdie on the second playoff to beat Na. Ogilvy showed his joy after making the difficult putt, and embraced his wife Juli on the green after Na missed an 8-footer that would have extended the playoff.

"I have never really got too revved up on a golf course," said Ogilvy, who had four top-10 finishes last year. "Well, I know, but I try to stay on kind of the same plane all day, you have that kind of my goal."

Ogilvy's \$540,000 winner's share was about 12 times more

## Golf roundup

than his earnings this season (\$47,316) after making the cut in two of four tournaments.

But Ogilvy, who has been among the top 95 money-winners all four years on tour, is practically a veteran compared to the 21-year-old Na, the youngest player on the circuit.

He and Na faced better in their first playoff experience than veteran Mark Calcavecchia.

Calcavecchia, who has won 11 titles, was 15 under after 36 holes and closed with a 3-under 69 to tie Na and Ogilvy (71) at 19-under 269 and get into the playoff. But he double-bogeyed the first extra hole after needing two shots to blast out of a bunker.

"To hit it there?" Calcavecchia said. "I guarantee you that one guy, the entire weekend — maybe in the whole tournament — hit it in the middle of that trap in the course of four days, and I have got to do it in the playoff. Incredible!"

The 72-hole total of 19 under was modest for a tournament in

which the cut was 5 under, lowest on the PGA Tour this year. The 7,109-yard Tucson National course toughened up Sunday under bright sunshine, with firmer greens and tougher driving because of occasional wind.

Steve Stricker closed with a 68, but missed the playoff by a shot. Doug Barron finished fifth after a closing 72 for a 271 total.

Aaron Baddeley (68), runner-up to Heath Slocum last year, Billy Mayfair (70) and Brent Geiberger (71) tied at 272.

Na was still choking back tears while meeting with reporters, recalling his disappointment at failing to win for the second time in three weeks.

He made a valiant bid, sinking a 28-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole, the most difficult on the course, to finish with a 71, and making a 20-footer for par on No. 18. He kept pace with Ogilvy on the first playoff hole.

"I want to become a player like Sergio Garcia," Na said. "You know, winning at 20, 21, guys like Phil Mickelson, who beat him in (Phoenix). I want to be the first — you know, one of the best in the world. And I feel like I can do that."

"And to lose in a playoff like that after hanging in there on the first hole, it's pretty depressing."

On the second playoff hole, the 501-yard, par-5 10th, Na and Ogilvy drove through the fairway and behind trees. Ogilvy punched his second shot into the fairway for a clear approach that stopped 18 feet above the hole.

Na cleared the trees with his second shot, and the ball landed just beyond the fringe at the back of the green. He chipped 8 feet past, giving Ogilvy the opening he needed for a dramatic ending.

"It was hole it or go home, in my head," Ogilvy said. "I found a way to hit a good putt."

## Irwin wins rain-delayed Outback Pro-Am

LUTZ, Fla. — Hale Irwin finished a second-round 68 to slip past Morris Hataksy on Monday and win the rain-delayed Outback Steakhouse Pro-Am by one shot.

Irwin, the Champions Tour career victory leader, took advantage of ideal weather, which made the TPC of Tampa Bay course play much easier than the previous three days. Irwin played his remaining 12 holes in 2 under

to end with a 36-hole total of 8-under 134.

Hataksy was one of only 22 golfers to complete the second round Saturday, when the scheduled 54-hole event was reduced to 36. Heavy rain Sunday washed out play after 68 minutes, pushing the conclusion back to Monday.

Hataksy's 7-under 135 was the score to beat, and Irwin — playing the back nine first — pulled even with a birdie on No. 18.

A birdie on No. 3 gave the winner of last month's Turtle Bay Championship the lead, and Irwin finished his 42nd tour win with six straight pars.

"When I got up today and saw that the weather was so beautiful, I just went: 'Damn,'" Hataksy said. "In order for me to maintain that position I needed the wind to blow hard and they needed tougher conditions out there. Hale found a way to manage himself around the golf course and get on top."

Defending champion Mark McNulty (68) birdied two of his last four holes to pull even with Hataksy, who spent Sunday relaxing and watching college basketball before returning to the course Monday in case there was a playoff.



# Smoltz in line for Opening Day start

The Associated Press

It looks as if John Smoltz is going to throw the Atlanta Braves' first pitch this season.

After spending the past three years earning 144 saves as the Braves' closer, Smoltz is returning to the starting rotation. And the way manager Bobby Cox has set his spring pitching schedule, Smoltz would be ready to go in the regular-season opener at Florida on April 5.

Smoltz, the only player who has been with the Braves for their entire run of 13 straight division titles and the 1996 Cy Young Award winner as a starter, is just glad to be starting again.

"It doesn't matter to me," Smoltz said Sunday at the Braves' camp in Kissimmee, Fla. "Whenever I make my first pitch, it's going to be an exciting time for me."

The only other pitcher who warrants consideration for the honor is Tim Hudson, a former 20-game winner who pitched on Opening Day several times for the Oakland A's.

But Hudson is a newcomer in Atlanta, coming over to the Braves in an offseason trade. He wouldn't even feel comfortable making the Opening-Day start instead of Smoltz.

"Even if they asked me to do it," Hudson said, "I wouldn't want to do it."

At Scottsdale, Ariz., Barry Bonds surprised his San Francisco teammates when he jumped into the batting cage and hit a few swings against new closer Armando Benitez, just four weeks after knee surgery.

Bonds faced nine pitches from Benitez at the Giants' spring training stadium and took only two swings, hitting hard grounders to the right side of the infield.

## Spring training

But just being at home plate is significant progress for the 40-year-old MVP.

"Just to stand in the cage and track balls was enough for me, just to show that to my teammates," Bonds said.

With several new teammates on San Francisco's reloaded roster, Bonds seems determined to participate in as many group activities as possible leading up to Thursday's Cactus League opener. He also participated in the team's stretching exercises before a light workout day for the Giants and played catch in the outfield.

"I'm one of those guys that just tries to keep himself ready for a game," Bonds said. "It's different, very different, but the good news is that my leg is coming to ground sound. The rehab is working, but I've still got a lot to do."

Benitez, who signed with the Giants as a free agent during the winter, was startled when his star teammate stepped into the cage.

He threw Bonds a few fastballs and one changeup that caused the slugger to smile.

"I didn't know he wanted to be in there," Benitez said. "He said, 'Why are you throwing me changeups?' I said, 'Hey, man, I have to work a lot on this stuff.'"

So why is Bonds' recovery moving so quickly?

"Tch," he said with a laugh. "The itch to be part of the group. The itch to be part of your team."

At Tempe, Ariz., Los Angeles Angels right-hander Kelvin Escobar, who had shoulder stiffness in January, threw off the mound for



Atlanta Braves pitcher John Smoltz throws batting practice on Thursday in Kissimmee, Fla. After spending the past three seasons as a closer, Smoltz is returning to the starting rotation and could start Opening Day.

the first time and experienced no soreness. Manager Mike Scioscia said earlier in the week that Escobar likely would drop to the No. 5 spot in the rotation out of camp as a precautionary move.

At Jupiter, Fla., St. Louis Cardinals right-hander Matt Morris threw his first batting practice session since having minor shoulder surgery in December.

"Matt was very good today, facing batters for the first time," pitching coach Dave Duncan said.

Ben Sheets, another starter recovering from offseason surgery, threw batting practice at Milwaukee's spring training facility in Phoenix. Sheets had surgery to repair a herniated disc in October. He's scheduled to start the Brewers' opener April 4 at Pittsburgh.

At Vero Beach, Fla., Brad Penny took another step in his recovery from a rare nerve injury in his right biceps, throwing his third bullpen session of the spring for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

"I felt fine," Penny said. "A little more intensity, a few more pitches — maybe 50 something."

He threw about 40 pitches Friday.

"He finished up good, he felt pretty good," manager Jim Tracy said. "He doesn't have any pain. If he had pain, he wouldn't be doing what he's doing. He wouldn't be able to do what he's doing."

Penny sustained a rare nerve injury to his right biceps Aug. 8 that sidelined him for the full two brief outting over the last two

months of last season and the playoffs. He has been throwing every other day since last Wednesday and is scheduled to throw again Tuesday.

At Bradenton, Fla., Pittsburgh pitcher Oliver Perez threw off the mound for the first time since injuring his left shoulder by sleeping awkwardly on it earlier this month.

Perez threw 23 pitches, all fastballs, in a five-minute session held indoors because of heavy rain.

"I feel so happy and good," Perez said. "Everything feels normal now."

In Duncedin, Fla., Toronto Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said Cy Young Award winner Roy Halladay will make the first start of the season against Tampa Bay April 4.

# QB Griese will restructure contract, return to Buccaneers

The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Brian Griese agreed to restructure his contract with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Sunday, helping the team alleviate its salary-cap problems.

The Tampa Tribune and St. Petersburg Times reported that the quarterback's deal is worth \$32 million for five years.

"There is a long-term agreement, and it will be signed in the next few days," team spokesman Jeff Kamis said.

Griese was paid \$900,000 last season, when he took over for Chris Simms after the second-year quarterback was injured during his first pro start. Simms had replaced Brad Johnson after the Bucs lost their first four games.

Griese started 10 games and completed an NFL-best 69.3 percent of his passes for 2,632 yards and 20 touchdowns, with 12 interceptions.

He also had a propensity for making game-altering mistakes, including four interceptions that were returned for TDs.

The former Denver starter was in jeopardy

of not returning because he was due a \$6 million roster bonus on Wednesday. Reducing his contract will save the team more than \$4 million under the salary cap.

It also means Johnson, who helped the Bucs win the Super Bowl two years ago, could be released this week to create another \$4.5 million in cap space. General Manager Bruce Allen has said the team is about \$17 million over.

Although coach Jon Gruden has said there will be open competition for the starting job in training camp, the financial commitment to Griese would seem to give him the edge over Simms, who's still regarded as the club's quarterback of the future.

## Lions re-sign center Raolia

DETROIT — The Detroit Lions and Dominic Raolia agreed on a five-year contract, keeping the team's center off the free-agent market.

Raolia started every game the past three seasons after spending much of his rookie season in 2001 on special teams. The 26-year-old Honolulu native was drafted in the second round out of Nebraska.

The Lions also are looking at signing a veteran quarterback to back up starter Joey

Harrington. They have interviewed Jeff Garcia and put him through physical tests during the NFL combine in Indianapolis.

Garcia was released by the Cleveland Browns Feb. 22. He completed 144 of 253 passes for 1,731 yards with 10 touchdowns and nine interceptions in 10 starts last season.

## Bears cut receiver Terrell

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — Wide receiver David Terrell, the eighth overall pick in the 2001 draft, was released by the Chicago Bears on Monday after four seasons of failed expectations.

The move came two days after the Bears signed All-Pro receiver Muhsin Muhammad, who was released by the Carolina Panthers.

Terrell, who had another year left on his contract, started 15 games last season and led the Bears with a career-high 699 receiving yards on 42 receptions with one touchdown. Over four years with the team, he totaled 128 receptions, 1,602 receiving yards and nine touchdowns.

## Browns release safety Griffith

CLEVELAND — Safety Robert Griffith

was released Monday by the Cleveland Browns, as new coach Romeo Crennel completed his overhaul of the team.

Griffith, who was due a roster bonus on Wednesday, spent three seasons in Cleveland, which signed him as a free agent in 2002 after eight years with the Minnesota Vikings. Griffith, 34, led the Browns with 157 tackles last season.

However, Griffith's age and Crennel's intention to upgrade the Browns up the middle made him expendable.

Griffith started 44 games for the Browns, finishing with 408 tackles, six interceptions, two fumble recoveries and one sack.

## Patriots sever ties with LB Phifer

FOXBORO, Mass. — Veteran linebacker Roman Phifer, who played on all three of New England's Super Bowl winners, was released on Monday.

Phifer, a 36-year-old, 14-year veteran, was signed by the team as a free agent in 2001 and played in 59 games in four seasons with the Patriots.

Phifer recorded 385 tackles, ranking second on the team after that span to Teddy Bruschi's 403. Phifer led the team in tackles in 2002.

## NFL

## briefs



Crews work on the cars during the first pit stop in Sunday's NASCAR Auto Club 500 at Fontana, Calif. Greg Biffle won the race.

# Taking a wild ride

Biffle just hangs on to win Sunday's Auto Club 500 despite an unruly car and late charge by J. Johnson

By MIKE HARRIS

The Associated Press

FONTANA, Calif. — After testing at California Speedway in January, Greg Biffle had a feeling he would win the Auto Club 500.

He did — barely. Biffle, fighting a car that wanted to jump out from under him, somehow held on long enough to take the checkered flag Sunday in the second NASCAR Nextel Cup race of the season.

"I lost all the rear grip there with three (laps) to go," Biffle said as he celebrated his fourth career victory. "I just barely touched the wall, skinned it, two or three times there at the end and I was just able to keep it under me."

"We had the fastest car on the racetrack, but just not right there at the end."

Biffle, who won last year's season finale in November, finished the test on California's 2-mile oval with a lot of confidence.

"I had a pretty strong feeling that we would win out here," he said. "Ninety percent of the time in our sport, the fastest car doesn't win the race. Today, I feel the fastest car won."

Biffle ran strongly throughout the 250-lap race, taking the lead for good on lap 228 and building an advantage just big enough to hold off a last-ditch effort by runner-up Jimmie Johnson.

Johnson passed reigning Cup champion Kurt Busch on the last lap to take second and came up just 0.230 seconds — about six car-lengths — behind the winning Ford Taurus.

"If we just had another corner, I think there would have been a different outcome to this race," Johnson said. "Man, I saw Biffle hitting the wall and sideways a few times there at the end and I could hardly believe he got to the end. But he had a strong car and he did a really good job."

Biffle, who figured the right combination in the first test of

*"I had a pretty strong feeling that we would win out here. Ninety percent of the time in our sport, the fastest car doesn't win the race. Today, I feel the fastest car won."*

Greg Biffle

Auto Club 500 winner

NASCAR's new aerodynamic rules, twice came back from as far down as 30th.

"I had to pass every car and I earned it," Biffle said. "That's why I freed the car up so much is because I was back in that traffic. Then, when I got back out front it was so dang loose that I couldn't drive it."

Roush Racing had a great day, with Biffle winning his fourth Cup race, reigning series champion Busch finishing third and taking the series lead by five points over Johnson, Carl Edwards fifth and Mark Martin seventh. Matt Kenseth also ran in the top 10 most of the day, but fell off the lead lap on lap 234 with a flat tire and wound up 26th.

The key moment came on lap 218 when Busch, running second, and Biffle, in fifth, stayed on the track while leader Kevin Harvick and most of the other contenders pitted for tires during the last of seven caution periods.

Busch faked toward the pits before driving back onto the track and taking the lead. Biffle just behind Biffle was able to drive into the top spot seven laps

after the green flag waved for the final time.

"It wasn't a really hard decision," Biffle said about staying on the track. "We only had seven laps on those tires. Those Goodyear tires they brought here are a really good compound and it takes five laps for them to come in, so we only had a two-lap advantage by pitting."

Johnson, one of those who stopped for four tires on lap 218, was 10th on the restart.

"It worked for them because the four-tire guys got hung up in traffic," he said. "We should have been able to win that race."

Busch, off to a strong start after finishing second to Jeff Gordon in the Daytona 500, was disappointed with Sunday's result.

"You get so close, you just want to be able to capitalize," he said. "I ran so hard at the beginning of the last stint, I smoked my tires and Johnson got us there at the end."

Jamie McMurray finished fourth, followed by Edwards and Harvick.

This was the first race in which the Cup cars ran with shortened rear spoilers and softer tires, an effort by NASCAR to make the racing more competitive and allow more passing by taking away downforce and putting more responsibility in the hands of the drivers.

It also was the first time the teams had to start the race with NASCAR holding the cars from the end of qualifying Saturday until Sunday morning and allowing only minor adjustments before the start.

Joe Nemechek appeared to have the strongest car for much of the race, leading a race-high 63 laps before his engine blew. Nemechek was one of five drivers using Hendrick Motorsports engines, including Gordon, who had problems during the race.

Gordon, the defending champion in this race and a three-time winner in California, was still in contention when he lost a cylinder late. He wound up 30th.

## Faulkner, British Open winner in 1951, dies at 88

The Associated Press

VIRGINIA WATER, England — Former British Open champion and five-time Ryder Cup golfer Max Faulkner has died, the European PGA Tour said Monday. He was 88.

Faulkner won the British Open in 1951 and was on the British Ryder Cup team that won the title six years later. It was one of his five Ryder Cup appearances. His Open triumph at Royal Portrush broke Bobby Locke's streak of victories in golf's oldest major, but the South African regained the title in 1952 to make it three in four years.

Faulkner was the last Briton to win the Open until Tony Jacklin won the claret jug 18 years later.

### Sports briefs

**Mooney, Immaculata co-captain, dies at 53**

PHILADELPHIA — Maureen Mooney, co-captain of the Immaculata College team that won the first national women's basketball title in 1972 and repeated in 1973, has died at 53, the school said Monday.

Mooney died Wednesday, the school said Monday. Immaculata defeated West Chester State 52-48 in 1972 to win the AIAW title. The Mighty Macs won three straight titles and were runners-up in 1975 and '76.

"It was the biggest fluke in the world that so many talented play-

ers wound up at Immaculata at the same time," Mooney said in a 1986 interview. "The one thing most of us had in common was that we were used to tough competition in high school in the Philadelphia Catholic League."

Mooney, of Blue Bell, Pa., was a financial consultant.

**V. Williams upset in first round**

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Venus Williams lost in the first round for the first time in four years, beaten by Italy's Silvia Farina Elia 7-5, 7-6 (6) in the Dubai Women's Open on Monday.

Williams' previous first-round ouster was to Barbara Schett in the 2001 French Open.

Farina Elia was 0-9 against the fifth-seeded American since

1997, but they hadn't played for almost two years.

Former Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez and rising Indian star Mirza — the oldest and youngest players in the draw — also reached the second round.

Martinez, 32, defeated Shinobu Asagoe of Japan 6-3, 6-4. The 18-year-old Mirza beat Jelena Kostanic of Croatia 6-7 (2), 6-4, 6-1 and will next face U.S. Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsov.

**Former heavyweight champ's condition downgraded**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Former WBA heavyweight champion Greg Page's condition has worsened slightly since being hospitalized last week with pneumonia

and other complications.

Page, 46, who held the WBA title for four months in 1984 before losing in his first defense, was in serious condition for the intensive care unit on Monday, Julie Ice, spokeswoman for Jewish Hospital, said.

**Iowa's Pierce pleads innocent**

ADEL, Iowa — Former Iowa basketball star Pierre Pierce pleaded innocent Monday to charges he sexually abused a friend and ransacked her house.

His trial must begin by mid-May. If convicted on all charges, Pierce could be sentenced to up to 56 years in prison and fined \$9,000.

Pierce, Iowa's leading scorer, was kicked off the team Feb. 2.

# Hard Lesson

## Temple's Chaney is on short leash in the wake of flagrant foul fiasco

John Chaney is still teaching kids that basketball is war when he should know better.

It's the same thing Bob Knight does, under the same banner of "molding" men, and it's led to some of the same excesses.

But maybe when someone has been doing things one way all his life, it's the rest of us who should know better than to expect him to change. So for the time being, stash the outrage over the dangerous stunt Chaney pulled last week. It will come back to haunt him soon enough.

This episode won't mark the end of Chaney's run at Temple.

anyway. The timid punishment handed down by university president David Adamany demonstrated that.

But you can see the end from here. Rest assured that the next time Chaney rushes into battle will be the last time he does so while drawing a paycheck from the Philadelphia school. Adamany doesn't have to draw up a zero-tolerance policy for his 73-year-old icon as a coach, but it is for him. All that's left for the president to do now is wait Chaney out.

What happened Tuesday night has been recounted and replayed dozens of times, and it's being followed by calls for Chaney's resignation or firing. That's because for all the good Chaney has done, it was hardly unprecedented. Fouls don't get much more flagrant or intentional than this.

The day before his squad played host to local rival Saint Jo-

seph's, Chaney threatened to use one of his own kids to "send a message" to the refs: if they wouldn't do something about what he insisted were illegal screens set by the Hawks' players, he would.

And being a man of his word, Chaney did.

He sent Nehemiah Ingram, a player he later referred to as a "goon," into the game with instructions to knock some Saint Joseph's players around. Ingram is a bruising 6-foot-8, 250-pounder who describes himself as "good at heart" — "My mama raised me in the church," he added — but nonetheless did exactly what he was told. After the game, Chaney crowded about Ingram's handiwork, but it didn't last long.

One of the players Ingram knocked to the floor, senior forward John Bryant, will miss the rest of the season with a broken arm.

Once it became clear that the damage Chaney's act caused wasn't simply limited to the integrity of the game, both the school and the Atlantic 10 Conference had to do something. Laughably, they extended his self-imposed suspension from one game to three.

The only good thing about the entire incident is that it happened at Temple instead of Saint Joseph's, where chances are it would have touched off a melee. Because Chaney would have been doing it right at them. And a guy who's handed out so many chances to kids of all stripes has earned at least one more for himself.

That's one more than a few people would argue is fair, since Bryant will be cheated out of what should have been the best few weeks of his career. Saint Joseph's will be forced to defend its regular-season league title without a key role player, and any



John Chaney is out for the rest of Temple's regular season, under suspension for ordering a player to commit flagrant fouls against St. Joe's.

coach who didn't have Chaney's stature would likely be out of a job already. But the last part is precisely the point.

Chaney never graduated as many kids as he should have, but it's worth remembering that on sum, most of those who came into contact with him will swear he had an impact on their lives, helped determine what they did when they left the team and in plenty of cases, he helped get them there.

That's why guys like Chaney become coaches in the first place and why, so long as they're successful, they get away with everything short of inciting a riot. Because they can lead. Chaney could, too — once. He's in the

Hall of Fame for good reason, but Chaney hasn't ever been in the Final Four, hasn't taken Temple to the NCAA tournament the last three seasons, and no longer operates the baddest program in his own town anymore. That would be Saint Joe's, which has beaten the Owls — illegal screens or not — the last six times they've met.

Temple's days as a national program are in the past. Chaney sacrificed more than most big-time coaches and made do with less for a long time. But the real thing, the one that has to do with Chaney's survival, may just be beginning.

Jim Ikle is a national sports columnist. The Associated Press. Write to him at: jike@ap.org

# Illinois again unanimous

## No. 1 in poll; Carolina 2nd

By JIM O'CONNELL  
The Associated Press

Illinois was No. 1 in The Associated Press college basketball poll Monday, the Illini's 13th straight week on top and their fifth consecutive poll as a unanimous choice. The Illini (28-0) beat Northwestern in their only game last week. Coupled with a loss by Michigan State, that was enough for them to repeat as Big Ten champions.

The 13-week run at No. 1 is the longest since Kansas was on top for 15 straight polls in 1996-97. Five weeks as a unanimous choice of the 72-member national media panel is the longest streak since Duke's five-week run in 2001-02.

North Carolina (24-3) beat North Carolina State and Maryland last week to remain No. 2.

Kentucky, which beat Alabama to win its 43rd Southeastern Conference title on Saturday, moved up two spots to third. Wake Forest made the same jump to fourth.

Boston College, which last Wednesday lost to Virginia, dropped from No. 3, the highest ranking in school history, to fifth.

Duke moved up one spot to sixth, its mark in the 1948-49 season. The 16th consecutive poll appearance, tying Kentucky for the fifth-longest streak since the poll started in 1948.

Duke has been ranked in every poll since the preseason Top 25 of the 1996-97 season. The record is UCLA's run of 221 consecutive polls that marked the preseason voting in 1966-67 and ended on Jan. 8, 1980.

Kansas, which has the second-longest active streak at 91 straight polls, moved from eighth to No. 7. Oklahoma State, the team the Jayhawks beat to end their three-game losing streak, dropped from fourth to No. 8.

Louisville and Washington rounded out the Top Ten.

Arizona was 11th and was followed by Gonzaga, Syracuse, Michigan State, Connecticut, Utah, Pacific, Charlotte, Villanova and Oklahoma.

Alabama, Cincinnati, Wisconsin, Pittsburgh and Nevada were the last five ranked teams.

### AP TOP 25

	Record	Pts
1. Illinois (71)	24-3	1703
2. North Carolina	24-3	1702
3. Kentucky	24-4	1525
4. Wake Forest	23-4	1525
5. Boston College	21-4	1416
6. Duke	21-4	1416
7. Virginia	20-5	1265
8. Oklahoma State	20-5	1265
9. Washington	23-4	1139
10. Louisville	24-5	1141
11. Gonzaga	22-4	987
12. Arizona	24-5	1041
13. Michigan State	20-5	873
14. Connecticut	20-5	873
15. Utah	24-4	703
16. Villanova	24-5	687
17. Charlotte	21-4	504
18. Pittsburgh	21-4	487
19. Oklahoma	21-4	487
20. Cincinnati	21-4	487
21. Alabama	22-5	288
22. Wisconsin	21-4	288
23. Nevada	18-7	153
24. Iowa	18-7	153
25. Nevada	18-7	153

Other receiving votes: 5, Illinois; 4, Gonzaga; 2, Florida; 2, Texas Tech; 16, Texas; 13, Maryland; 10, Wake Forest; 10, Kentucky; 10, New Mexico; 4, Old Dominion; 3, Texas A&M; 3, Belmont; 3, Holy Cross; 2, Virginia Tech; 2, Saint Mary's; 2, West Virginia; 2, George Washington; 1, Minnesota; 1, Penn; 1, UCLA; 1, Winthrop; 1.

# May's slate block saves Carolina victory

The Associated Press

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — If North Carolina came out at Maryland without Rashad McCants, just how good will the Tar Heels be when their leading scorer returns? The rest of the Atlantic Coast Conference can't be too eager to find out.

Raymond Felton made the tie-breaking layup with 19 seconds left and Sean May blocked a shot just before the buzzer, giving the second-ranked Tar Heels a harrowing 83-83 victory on Sunday.

May had 22 points and 11 rebounds for North Carolina, which remained alone atop the ACC after its fifth straight victory.

It was the 21st consecutive game in which the Tar Heels (24-3, 12-2) had at least four players score in double figures, and they did it without McCants, who has been sidelined with an intestinal disorder. He was averaging 15.8 points and ranked second on the team in assists.

"It's still difficult to play without Rashad, but we've done it for two games and if we have to, we'll do it for more," North Carolina coach Roy Williams said.

David Noel scored a season-high 12 points and Felton had 10 points and 10 assists.

"It just shows that guys are willing to step up," May said.

With the score tied at 83, Felton drove the left side of the lane and delivered his only basket of the second half. Mike Jones had a chance to tie it for Maryland, but his last-second shot was swatted away by May.

"Sean is unbelievable. He does great things on the right side of the court," said Williams. "That time, he made a big play on the defensive end. My opinion is that is what won the game, not my layup."

In the first game between the teams, the Tar Heels hammered the Terrapins by 34 points at Chapel Hill. This one was closer,

but North Carolina again proved too talented and too deep for a Maryland squad with one scholarship senior.

"They're the No. 2 team in the country and I want our guys to believe they can play with them," Maryland coach Gary Williams said. "On the last play, we had good isolation with Mike Jones. But Sean made a great play."

The loss means Maryland (16-10, 7-8) must beat Virginia Tech on the road Saturday to finish at 500 in the ACC. "The last game of the season is going to be a dogfight, especially going down to Virginia Tech for their senior night," Jones said. "We need to go down there and play as hard as we can."

The Tar Heels led 76-68 with five minutes left, but the Terrapins used three straight three-pointers to go up 81-80 with 1:33 to go, their first lead since 29-28.

Jawad Williams hit a

three-pointer for North Carolina and Ekene Ibekwe tied it at 83 on a tip-in with 41 seconds remaining.

That set the stage for a thrilling finish.

"Jones came over and got a clean look," May said. "I knew he had to put the shot up, he didn't have time enough to pass it. I was able to get a clean look."

Chris McCray scored a career-high 25 points. Nik Caner-Medley had 16 and John Gilchrist added 13 for the Terrapins, who rallied from a 10-point deficit to tie it.

The Tar Heels finished with a 44-35 edge on the boards.

"He's about as athletic as a small elephant," Roy Williams said jokingly.

It sure didn't seem that way to Maryland, who had no one in the middle to match up with the 6-foot-9 center.

"The rebounding advantage was big for us," Roy Williams said.

## SPORTS



Walker helps 'sub-par' Celtics  
become first East team  
to win in Phoenix, Page 26



North Carolina's Sean May, left, slam dunks over Maryland's Nik Caner-Medley, right, during the second half Sunday. May led North Carolina with 22 points in their 85-83 win.

# Tar Heels hang on to beat Maryland

## Late block helps UNC win fifth straight

BY DAVID GINSBURG  
The Associated Press

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**Biffle holds onto jumpy car long enough to hold off Johnson, win NASCAR's Auto Club 500**

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**Braves' Smoltz poised to leave bullpen, likely to make Opening Day start**

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**Illinois men top AP poll for 13th straight week** Page 31

